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THE INDEPENDENT

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SEE PAGE 12



Dame Judi Dench and Tom Stoppard, who have been nominated for Oscars for 'Shakespeare in Love', in London yesterday for the announcement Andrew Burnman

Shakespeare in Love makes Oscars history. Is it a sham?

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

THE BOX-OFFICE hit *Shakespeare in Love* yesterday guaranteed its place in film history when it garnered 13 Oscar nominations, the highest number for a domestic movie.

With the third-highest number of nominations in the Academy Awards' 71-year history, it overshadows *The English Patient*, which two years ago received 12 nominations, and is only one short of the record - held jointly by *All About Eve* from 1950 and last year's blockbuster, *Titanic*.

With Elizabeth bagging a further seven nominations, Britain's film industry is hoping for one of its most successful years at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences ceremony.

But the hoped-for triumph highlights once again the vexed question of what, exactly, is a British film?

All of *Shakespeare in Love's* \$25m (£16m) budget came from an American company, Miramax, the former independent company now owned by Disney.

Another "British" hit, *Little Voice*, with Brenda Blethyn nominated for best supporting actress, was also financed by Miramax.

So in terms of money, both films could be classed as American. For the Department of Culture this is an issue best avoided. "We would rather not talk about what is, or what is not, a British film," said a spokesman yesterday.

However, the department's actions speak more patriotically than its words. It issues a quarterly titled "Certificate of British Nature Of A Film" to films that the Government considers British under the Films Act 1985.

David Parfitt, the British producer of *Shakespeare in Love*, said: "We are most definitely a British film. To get the certificate we had to meet certain criteria as regards use of labour. In fact, the entire crew was British, from the carpenter to the director, and so were all of the cast, bar three - Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Affleck and Geoffrey Rush. All of the locations were in the UK, and the \$25m, \$20m was spent in the UK."

Mr Parfitt said many "British" films were financed from the US. Of his own films, *The Wings of the Dove* (1997) was 100 per cent financed by Miramax, and *The Madness of King George* and *Much Ado About Nothing* had the majority of their financing from the US.

"It's not where the profits go," he said, "it's the labour and talent you use, and the locations. Concentrating on the finance can be very misleading. When people say a film is British and financed in the UK, you will still get sales agents madly selling off the rights to foreign distributors."

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Ministers to take harsh line on single mothers

SINGLE MOTHERS and the disabled will lose all their social security benefits if they fail to turn up for regular interviews aimed at getting them back to work, the Government will announce today.

Writing in *The Independent*, Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, reveals: "The new regime will be far tougher than people thought... Our new contract will require people to attend an interview as a condition of receiving benefit and to consider the options available to them."

His Welfare Reform Bill, to be published today, will give Mr Darling wide-ranging powers to force all benefit claimants to attend interviews at what he regards as appropriate intervals. Previously, ministers have said only that claimants will be "asked" to attend one interview. But Mr Darling is convinced that tougher sanctions are needed to encourage the one million lone parents on income support and 2.8 million people on disability benefits back into work.

The 1.3 million unemployed can already lose their Jobseeker's Allowance for between two to four weeks if they turn down a reasonable offer of work. The new "single gateway" system, due to take effect in April next year, will be even tougher. No claimant would be allowed to stay on benefit unless they attended a back-to-work interview at least every five years. There would be compulsory interviews at other "milestones" - for example, when the child of a single mother reached infant or secondary school age.

The unexpectedly tough measures in today's Bill will find a Labour backbench rebellion against what critics will see as a further step towards a United States-style "workfare" system. Whips believe that 50 Labour MPs may rebel against the Bill during its passage through Parliament. "This will give the left the issue they have desperately been seeking," one government source admitted.

However, Mr Darling launched a pre-emptive strike against his left-wing critics last night, accusing them of adopting a "patronising attitude" which consigned claimants to a life on benefit.

He told *The Independent* that previous "crusades which ended in heroic failure" were of no help to those on benefit. "We are a different government; we want a sea change in the culture of the system," he said.

"At the moment, you can sign on, get your benefit and not trouble anyone until you get your pension. But this approach is storing up social and economic problems. People on benefits have a right to expect the Government to help them, but they also have a responsibility to help themselves. There will be no excuses."

However, Mr Darling insisted that lone parents and the disabled would not lose their benefits if they refused a job. The penalties would apply only to those who declined an interview.

The New Deal scheme for lone parents has convinced ministers that further incentives are needed to persuade single mothers to attend interviews with personal advisers. At present, many do not attend the voluntary sessions, but many of those who do turn up are persuaded to enter the job market.

The Tories have branded the New Deal a "total failure", saying that only 1,145 single mothers have found work since last September, at an average cost of £14,800 per job.

Ministers are bracing themselves for strong criticism from Frank Field, who rebelled against the Government on Monday for the first time since resigning as minister for welfare reform last summer. Mr Field will argue that the proposed shake-up of disability payments will throw more people on to means-tested benefits.

The Welfare Reform Bill will also bring in "stakeholder pensions" for workers not in company schemes; pension-sharing for divorced couples; and reform of widows' benefits.

Alistair Darling, Review, page 4

Two are killed in Alps avalanche

By JOHN LICHFIELD
Paris

TWO PEOPLE, including a small girl, were killed when avalanches buried 11 chalets in villages near Chamonix in the French Alps yesterday.

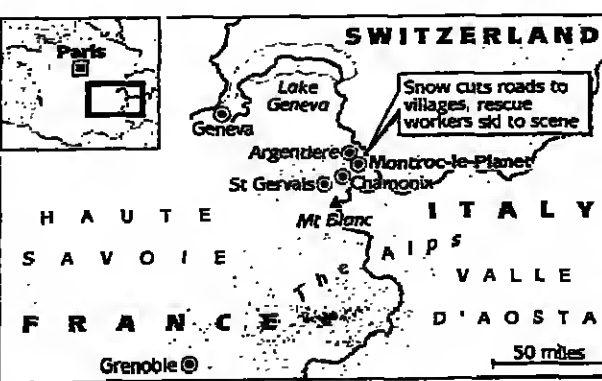
Five people were missing and 20 people were pulled out alive, shocked or slightly injured after the two enormous snow slides engulfed part of the villages of Le Tour and Montroc-Planet, both popular resorts. Police said they feared that others might be trapped inside chalets or under snow. Witnesses said that they had seen several people walking in the open near the chalets just before the avalanches struck.

The victims were described as an adult male and a girl about four or five years old. Their names were not immediately released.

More than 200 rescue workers assembled last night, some skiing to the scene after roads were cut off by snowfalls. A crisis headquarters was set up nearby. "We think there could be others inside the chalets or near the chalets who could be buried," said Michel Berg, secretary-general of the Haute Savoie police.

The rescue teams were ready to work throughout the night and powerful lights were being helicoptered to the scene. Local radio reported that the villages were buried under six feet of snow, with only the roofs of the chalets visible.

Tens of thousands of people are expected in the area from this weekend with the beginning of the staggered school winter holidays.



Mandarin slated in Sandline affair

By FRANK ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT sought to rubbish the report. In a BBC interview, the Prime Minister said the committee's inquiry had uncovered nothing new. "The criticism made of the officials is disproportionate and unfair. They were doing a very, very difficult job in very difficult circumstances," said Mr Blair.

Mr Cook said an earlier inquiry had answered all the necessary questions. "It is wrong that the same officials should be put on trial for a second time," he said.

Conservative members of the committee refused to endorse its report, saying it had been too soft on Mr Cook and too hard on Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, said Mr Blair should sack Mr Cook and his junior minister, Tony Lloyd.

"It is hardly possible to conceive of a more serious indictment of ministers. This is a story of ministers deliberately misleading parliament, the public and the Foreign Office's own staff," he said.

The committee's Liberal Democrat member, David Heath, accused Mr Howard of "playing political games" by targeting Mr Cook instead of Sir John.

"The committee has produced the hardest-hitting criticisms of a permanent secretary and a department ever," he said.

The report called for new legislation next year to control the activities of arms brokers, and for a Green Paper on mercenaries within 18 months.

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'Enthusiastic Nazi who took pleasure in slaughter of Jews'

By Andrew Buncombe

THE DATES relate to a different age, the crime to another generation. But more than half a century on, the horrors of the Jewish Holocaust reverberated once again yesterday as Britain's first Nazi war crimes trial began at the Old Bailey.

The accusations against Anthony Sawoniuk, a limping, white-haired pensioner from south London, are as simple as they are shocking.

It is alleged that between 19 September and 31 December 1942, he murdered 20 Jews, assisting the Nazis in their so-called Final Solution. It is alleged that he did so not only willingly, but enthusiastically, while serving as a police officer in Nazi-occupied Belarus. Moreover, it is said that his victims were people with whom he had lived side-by-side and even worked for during the first 20 years of his life.



Anthony Sawoniuk arriving at the Old Bailey yesterday. Alex Slaughter/Photoneus

The crimes are said to have taken place in Domachevo, a town in south-west Belarus, 25 miles south of Brest. In the summer of 1941, on its push to Moscow, the German army stormed through Belarus, overrunning Domachevo in less than an hour.

Within days the Germans were looking for volunteers to serve in a locally recruited police force, or *Schutzmannschaft*, to keep order, and which in the days to come, would assist in the systematic extermination of the town's Jewish population.

Yesterday at the Old Bailey, John Nutting QC, for the prosecution, said Mr Sawoniuk, 77, was one of the first to volunteer for this force. He was to be promoted to Commandant of the force and would serve for three years before fleeing with the Nazis when the Red Army counter-attacked in 1944.

Mr Nutting said that while British law required that only one allegation of murder be mentioned in each of the four counts Mr Sawoniuk faces, the prosecution alleges that he in fact murdered 20 people.

"On each occasion, say the Crown, this defendant executed Jewish men and women whose only offence was to be Jewish," he said. "The evidence indicates that the defendant was not only prepared to do the Nazi bidding but carried out their genocidal policy with enthusiasm."

Mr Sawoniuk's alleged crimes are said to have been carried out following the Nazis' decision, in the summer of 1942, to exterminate the Jewish population within the territories it held. This was Hermann Goring's 'Final Solution of the Jewish Question'.

In Domachevo, a spa town of mixed ethnicity, this policy came to a rapid and murderous conclusion on 19 and 20 September, the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. On those two days the Nazis murdered 2,900 Jews from Domachevo, a town with a population of 5,000.

Mr Nutting said that witnesses recall the Jewish population being forced from their ghetto and marched to some sandhills on the outskirts of the town. The route would become known as the Road of Death, the sandhills would become stained with blood.

"There (the Jews) were shot

in batches by machine-gun fire," said Mr Nutting. "The shooting lasted for a long time. Women and children were murdered along with male Jews."

He said locals were made to witness the event. One, Galina Puchkina, was led towards the sandhills. "The witness remembers cries and screaming. The Jews were ordered to undress and throw their clothes on to a pile," he said. "They were pushed, sometimes with rifle butts, by the policemen and Germans, towards the pits. After they had disappeared in the direction of the pits (Mrs Puchkina) heard sounds of shooting - machine-gun fire and then single shots."

While the prosecution admitted there is nothing to link Mr Sawoniuk with the massacre, it is alleged he was involved immediately after.

Many of those Jews who escaped were tracked down by

German *Einsatzgruppen*, or mobile death squads, but others were found by the local police.

"It is alleged that the defendant played a prominent part in rounding up and murdering Jews who had fled to the forest ... or had hidden in the ghetto on the day of the massacre," said Mr Nutting.

"The inference that the Jews were murdered by the defendant is an irresistible one, either because he was actually seen to shoot, or because he was seen taking Jews to a place where they were habitually shot and returning without them, or because he boasted about the fate of his victim."

In one allegation Mr Sawoniuk is said to have shot dead 15 Jewish women in a forest clearing. A witness, Fedor Zan, hid in bushes after hearing women screaming and saw Mr Sawoniuk standing next to the group beside an open grave, said Mr Nutting.

"He ordered the women to remove their clothes and then shot them with (a sub-machine-gun). As they died they collapsed into the grave."

In another allegation Mr Sawoniuk is said to have murdered two men and a woman in the sandhills. Another witness, Alexander Baglay, saw Mr Sawoniuk order the three to undress and led them to a pre-dug grave, said Mr Nutting. "He then took out his pistol and shot each one in the head from behind - first the two men, then the girl. As he fired he pushed each of them forward into the grave."

He is also said to have murdered a 50-year-old Jew known only as Schlemko. A third witness, Ivan Stepaniuk, saw Mr Sawoniuk hitting him with a spade before leading him off to some trees. After hearing a single



gle gunshot, Mr Stepaniuk saw the defendant return, armed but without the prisoner, said Mr Nutting.

The prosecution said witnesses had also seen Mr Sawoniuk carrying out other attacks. On one occasion he was among a group of police who set fire to the beard of an elderly Jew before stabbing him.

Mr Sawoniuk, a retired railway worker, has denied all the allegations. Yesterday he sat motionless as the allegations were outlined. His only reaction came when the court was told how his first wife, a midwife called Anna Maslova, died shortly after their marriage when she was caught in cross-fire. At this point Mr Sawoniuk took a handkerchief from his pocket and wiped his eyes.

When questioned by police in 1994 under the 1991 War Crimes Act, Mr Sawoniuk initially denied he was a member of the police force. He had since admitted he was, but denied all the allegations he faced, said Mr Nutting.

Mr Nutting raised the question of whether the witnesses had got the wrong man. "After such a long time maybe the witnesses' memories are at fault," he said, "or do they describe events which are literally unforgettable ... which once witnessed would remain fixed in a man's memory for his life?"



A memorial near Domachevo, Belarus, to the victims of the Nazi massacre in 1942



Refugees are forced to flee the villages of Domachevo and Liozno



Refugees are forced to flee the villages of Domachevo and Liozno

'Scariest film in history' is finally released on video

By Rhys Williams

THE EXORCIST, widely considered the most disturbing film of all time, was finally passed for video release yesterday more than a quarter of a century after its first outing.

In his first significant decision since taking over as chief censor last month, Robin Duff, director of the British Board of Film Classification, gave an uncut version of the 1973 film an 18 rating. Its original cinema release was trailed by a wave of hysteria as people fainted, vomited or ran to priests claiming demonic possession. Newspaper headlines dubbed it "sickening", several churches tried to ban it and protesters held vigils outside cinemas.

But the reaction to its 25th anniversary release last autumn was muted, a fact which Mr Duff said informed deliberations about sanctioning its video release. "Public sensibility has changed," he said.

In fact, *The Exorcist* was available for home viewing for four years until the Video Recordings Act 1984 placed video under the BBFC's aegis. Since then, its failure to earn a classification - partly based on the belief that children would see it despite an 18 rating - has become a cause célèbre of British film censorship.

Mr Duff said that there

was no hard evidence that the video had harmed viewers, while he hoped its reputation was sufficient for parents to police their children's viewing.

William Friedkin's film broke box-office records, won 10 Oscar nominations and even earned approval from sections of the Roman Catholic church, but its reputation as a terrifying tour de force has often overshadowed its virtues as ground-breaking drama.

Based on a novel by William Peter Blatty, the film deals with the demonic possession of a 12-year-old girl. Mark Kermode, a critic who has seen the film more than 200 times, said the BBFC's decision was overdue.

"It's the greatest film of all time because it gives you what you give it. It's horror, it has a happy ending, it has a negative ending, it's an allegory for post-Watergate disillusionment, for the collapse of the family."

"In the US, where the video's been out for years, younger viewers do not get much out of it because it's a complicated film and nothing much happens for the first hour. For it to be scary, you have to get into it and the characters."

Moral campaigners were outraged by the decision. Dr Adri Rogers, former chairman of the Conservative Family Institute, said: "It's a horrible, dangerous film."

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BT offers free internet service to all households

THE PROSPECT of free Internet access being extended to virtually every household drew closer yesterday when BT launched a free Internet service.

It is called ClickFree and will be available just by picking up the phone and ordering a free compact disc or by downloading the software via a modem from BT's website.

The BT service follows a groundbreaking move by

By NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

Dixons, whose Freeserve product has taken the Internet access market by storm since its launch in September.

Freeserve has grown rapidly to become the UK's largest Internet access provider with a million members, overtaking the long-established America Online, whose monthly subscription service has 900,000

members in the UK. Dixons' success has sparked a series of imitations, such as Tesco and even Arsenal Football Club.

However, the Tesco service is just for members of its ClubCard loyalty scheme, and the Dixons service is restricted to customers who visit its stores.

BT's ClickFree will be just a phone call away from its millions of domestic customers.

It can be downloaded on to a PC or Apple Macintosh, with

MAIN PROVIDERS IN THE UK

Provider	Service	Subscribers
Dixons	Freeserve	1 million
America Online	AOL/Compuserve	900,000
Demon Internet	Demon	230,000
BT Internet	BT Click+	166,000
Microsoft	MSN	140,000

the only charge being a 50p-a-minute helpline. Subscribers will also be able to shop online due to a link-up

between BT and Value Direct, which provides low-cost goods via the Internet. "We are simply responding to

the request from customers for a cheaper service to connect to the Internet," BT's Internet director John Swingewood said.

Free Internet access has become the new battleground in electronic commerce as companies grapple with ways of making money through the medium. Internet providers such as Dixons, and now BT, earn revenue by charging 50p a minute for helpline calls as well as selling advertising and

other services through their website. One of BT's advantages is that it will attract users of Apple Macintosh computers, who are not able to access the Dixons or Tesco services. Internet experts say BT will also be able to trade on the huge power of its brand while backing ClickFree with a massive advertising budget.

The market for free Internet access provision is currently being investigated by Ofcom,

the telecoms watchdog. BT has complained that the services block its lines and cause congestion, while it receives only a fraction of the call revenue. If Ofcom modifies the payment structure, forcing companies like Dixons to pay a higher proportion of the phone charge to BT, they may have to change for their services. Tesco: www.tesco.net Freeserve: www.freeserve.net ClickFree: www.btclickfree.com

Schooling a lottery, says chief inspector

STANDARDS in England's schools have risen dramatically in the last five years, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said yesterday.

Five years ago, teaching in 20-30 per cent of lessons was judged unsatisfactory or poor. Now that figure is down to 8 per cent. However, schooling remains a lottery and there are still too many incompetent teachers, he said.

Mr Woodhead, who was presenting his most positive annual report to date, placed himself firmly behind the Government's drive to raise standards and sought to play down the controversies that have engulfed him recently. He told a London press conference that he did not believe his authority had been damaged by a weekend during which he had to apologise for remarks about sex between teachers and pupils, first revealed in *The Independent*.

Improvements in teaching had yet to show in better test results, he accepted, but argued that there was an inevitable time lag between reforms and their effects. "Significant progress has been made in recent years. Much, nevertheless, needs to be done if the Government's vision of a world-class education service is to be realised."

Five years ago, Mr Woodhead provoked fury among teachers when he said that there were 15,000 incompetent teachers who should be sacked.

Yesterday's report says that about 3 per cent of primary teachers and 5 per cent of secondary teachers in the schools inspected fell into that category - which still gives a total of 15,000, but that figure could have been inflated by the focus of inspections. Mr Woodhead said a high number of bad secondary schools had been targeted for inspection last year, which could have revealed a corresponding proportion of bad teachers.

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

The report points to a number of primary schools which have seen "spectacular improvements in reading". Seven out of ten show better results and nine out of ten improved teaching. But it says education is still too much of a lottery. If 200 schools in poor areas can be turned round, why not all?

Mr Woodhead blames heads who do not know what is happening in their classrooms, weak local education authorities and ineffective teacher-training courses for poor schools and teachers. Equally, some local education authorities are damaging schools by wasting money and managing change badly.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, believed that the report vindicated government policy. "The quality of teaching has improved and as a result classroom standards have risen." But he warned against complacency.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Mr Woodhead's belated admission that his figures are biased by the choice of secondary schools inspected in the year only further undermines the credibility of his pronouncements."



A drama class at Chadwell Heath. The school had improved its results by lightening pupils' load but monitoring performance. John Voos

Head with a single lesson for success

"IF YOU want to improve a school, it is boring, nitty-gritty stuff. There are no exciting soundbites in it."

Keith Wilkinson should know. He is head of Chadwell Heath comprehensive school, one of the country's most improved schools, according to a list published today by the Office for Standards in Education. And he thinks politicians would benefit from a lesson or two on what their soundbites about raising standards really mean in the classroom.

Seven years ago, the first year of the exam league tables, he found that his school had come bottom in the local education authority, the London borough of Redbridge. Just 22 per cent of pupils had scored five or more top grades (A*-C) at GCSE. Neighbouring schools with similar sorts of pupils were doing better. "The league tables opened my eyes. I had to admit that I wasn't doing my job properly," he says.

So he set to work to change the attitudes of both pupils and teachers in the 1,200-pupil, multi-cultural comprehensive. The results are impressive. Last year, the proportion of pupils achieving five or more top grades was up to 57 per cent, well above the national average of 46 per cent. Exam results have risen every year except for last year when they dropped by one percentage point. The sixth form has grown from 68 pupils to 260.

A recent survey found 75 per cent of pupils would recommend the school to others and an even higher proportion said they liked the teachers. One of his first tasks, Mr Wilkinson says, was to get the timetable right. "Everyone was taking nine GCSEs and some could not cope. Equal opportunities does not mean giving everyone the same." Now, everyone does five core GCSEs

but can also take non-GCSE exams in more practical subjects such as orienteering, media studies or word processing. "We expect at least Cs from them. We have lightened their burden and now every kid can achieve."

The school keeps careful track of every pupil. The "boring, nitty-gritty" involves setting performance targets for individual pupils. If someone scores four Cs and, say, a D in history in the mock GCSE exams, the history teacher will be asked to pay particular attention to the pupil to ensure that he or she leaves with five Cs.

Teachers have targets for improving pupils' performance and tough questions are asked if they fail to achieve them. "It's not a question of blame but I do have discussions with staff about the results," says Mr Wilkinson. "I can never understand why people agree children do better if you praise them but politicians seem to think you improve teachers' performance by attacking them."

For pupils, there are medals, book tokens, trophies and prizes for every aspect of the schools' activities, from attendance to art. "We are trying to give them ambitions by emphasising the positive and telling them they are good."

Teachers have targets for improving pupils' performance and tough questions are asked if they fail to achieve them. "It's not a question of blame but I do have discussions with staff about the results," says Mr Wilkinson. "I can never understand why people agree children do better if you praise them but politicians seem to think you improve teachers' performance by attacking them."

Climber survives clinging to ledge

By STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

A BADLY-INJURED climber was airlifted to hospital yesterday after surviving a night in sub-zero temperatures clinging to a ledge after he fell 400ft in the Scottish Highlands. Rescuers said Lawrence Reeve from Surrey would almost certainly have perished if the wind had been strong.

Mr Reeve, a 40-year-old computer operator from Chessington, was making his way along a ridge in Glencoe on Monday afternoon when he fell and struck a rock, puncturing a lung and cutting his head. He tried to clamber back to the ridge to seek help but had to give up and stop 200ft from his objective on a small ledge above another drop of hundreds of feet.

He spent the night there in temperatures that fell to minus 12C and was so cold he was unable to open his rucksack which contained food and a hot drink in a flask.

John Grieve, leader of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, said: "He had his back against a rock the size of a door on a ledge with quite a drop below it and he clung on there all night. He got a punctured lung, a cut head and he's certainly frostbitten too. But he's tough." Mr Reeve was taken to Belford Hospital in Fort William. Last night his condition was "stable".

As dusk fell yesterday, rescue team members were trying to reach another climber said to have neck and back injuries after falling from Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis, Scotland's highest mountain.

Heavy snow blocked main roads and forced more than 200 schools to close in northern Scotland. In the central belt, mother of three Yvonne Davidson, 34, died after slipping on an icy pavement near her home in Broxburn, West Lothian.

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IN BRIEF

Branson plans fourth balloon trip

RICHARD BRANSON is to make a fourth and final attempt to fly around the world in a balloon, he said yesterday. The entrepreneur said that he hoped the next bid would be "fourth time lucky". He said: "I think maybe after this trip, if we fail again, it might be time to call it a day."

Secret pie recipe goes for £450

A 123-YEAR-OLD secret family recipe for pork pies was auctioned for £450. The latest guardians of the recipe, William and Ada Demmon, had retired from Greenley's butcher's shop in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, where townsfolk queue for the unique pies and sausages.

'Infection risk' from germ tests

PEOPLE COULD have suffered chest and blood infections because of biological warfare experiments carried out on the south-west coast, according to a report published yesterday. There was a large-scale release of bacteria in Dorset and East Devon in the Sixties and Seventies.

Lottery boost for tug-of-war team

THE 15 MEMBERS of Scotland's national tug-of-war squad have each been given £1,150 of Lottery sports fund cash to assist them in the world championships in Ireland later this month. They hope to improve on their last world contest when they were runners-up in two categories.

Smell triggers accurate memories

EVENTS CAN be remembered more clearly if they are linked to smells, according to research at the Jorvik Viking Museum, York, which recreates the odours of that era. Past visitors who were re-exposed to the smells had a 20 per cent better recall of exhibits than those who were not.

Missing Dr Who turns up in time

FANS OF *Dr Who* are set to get their first glimpse of an episode lost for more than 30 years. *The Lion*, starring the late William Hartnell, disappeared after the original transmission in 1965, but will be broadcast on *The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories* tomorrow.

KEN LIVINGSTONE

No one ever asked me who I was going to bed with and what I did there

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

2001

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Outbreak of meningitis is the worst for half a century

BY JEREMY LAURANCE AND CLARE GARNER

A NEW strain of meningitis which has struck fear into a small Welsh community over the last nine days could be behind the rapid rise in the disease across the country which is now running at its highest level for 50 years, experts said yesterday.

As medical teams in Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, completed the mass inoculation of children in the town where there have been 11 confirmed cases of meningitis and three deaths, the Public Health Laboratory Service said the strain isolated from some of the cases was first identified in 1995 and already accounted for 70 per cent of cases involving group C disease.

Helpline nationwide have been inundated with calls, with health officials hasty allaying fears. In the first three weeks of this year there were 440 notifications of the disease, compared with 255 in 1998 and 304 in 1997.

Young people in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Kent were also being treated for the disease, which has claimed at least 35 deaths this year.

The new sub-strain, called C2a, caused major outbreaks in Quebec, Canada, in the early Nineties and in Spain and the Czech Republic before arriving in Britain. Since 1995, the incidence of meningitis has doubled nationally, which could be linked with the arrival of the unfamiliar strain to which the population has low immunity.

At Coedylan Comprehensive School yesterday, there was an atmosphere of fear mingled with relief as all 1,200 pupils and staff received their vaccination against the C strain of meningitis which has already claimed the life of 15-year-old pupil Gareth Gould. Another

pupil, 16-year-old Stuart Mottram, was in a critical condition in hospital last night.

Pupils and staff at the nearby Cardinal Newman Roman Catholic school were yesterday saying prayers for cookery teacher Lynn James, 55, who died on Monday night from the same C2a strain.

And a 66-year-old woman, also from Pontypridd, died from meningitis on the same day as Gareth. Two other Coedylan teenagers and two 11-year-olds from the lower school are also being treated for the disease.

And two children from Treboert Primary School, also in Pontypridd, are recovering in hospital from the same virulent strain.

Buses had been laid on to transport children from their homes to Coedylan Comprehensive, which was turned into an immunisation centre, but few took up the offer. Anxious to avoid close contact, parents drove them instead.

However, compared with a couple of days ago, the mood of staff, parents and children was calmer. They were relieved that something was being done.

Bronwen Keelan, 49, whose 14-year-old daughter, Aimee, attends the school, said: "We've had the antibiotics. My child was vaccinated this morning. There's nothing more we can do. We've got to just hope they've got it right."

Over the past few days Aimee had learned the hardest lesson of all, she added. "At 14, to suddenly realise that children can die, that they are not invulnerable, is terribly frightening," she said.

The saving grace in this tragic outbreak in Pontypridd

was that the community is so close-knit. Staff at the school only had to ring about 10 households in order to get the word out that antibiotics were to be administered on Sunday and vaccinations on Tuesday.

Eiry Rochford, 53, head of Welsh, which is taught as a second language, said: "We're in the South Wales valley here. It's a different community to anywhere else in the world. [Word] just spreads."

By 3pm yesterday the vaccination programme was complete. Nurses packed up the six tables erected in the main hall, which had been transformed into an emergency centre.

Further down the corridor Peter James, chair of the school's governors, announced that the school would be closing until after the half-term break. "This is still a very anxious school and a very anxious community, as I'm sure you will appreciate," he said.

He read a statement drafted by the governing body the previous night. "We understand and accept the view of the health authority that the school itself is not the centre of this outbreak. Nevertheless, in view of the current very low attendance at the school, we have decided to close the school as soon as the immunisation programme is complete. We expect the school to reopen after the half-term break."

Meningitis follows a pattern of peaks and troughs every 10 to 15 years which may be linked to the arrival of new strains. Over the years the population builds up immunity to older strains but a new one can infect more people and cause more virulent disease.

A spokesman for the Public Health Laboratory Service said: "There is nothing to suggest the C2a strain is any nastier than any of the other strains, but because we have been exposed to it more recently it may cause more virulent disease."

Dr Meyrion Evans, a public health consultant for Bro Taf Health Authority, which is handling the south Wales outbreak, said no new cases had been identified in school pupils since



Pupils of Coedylan Comprehensive in Pontypridd being vaccinated yesterday after meningitis claimed three lives

Tobacco 'victims' unable to sue

BY MELANIE HARVEY

A GROUP of lung-cancer sufferers was yesterday refused permission to sue two tobacco companies.

High Court judge Mr Justice Wright decided not to exercise his power to allow the action against Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco to continue after it was brought outside the legal time limit. The plaintiffs in eight test cases had lodged their claims more than three years after being diagnosed with lung cancer, one missing the time limitation by 24 years.

They had asked the judge to exercise his discretion under the 1980 Limitations Act to allow the action to proceed but in a judgment at the High Court sitting in Liverpool he refused that application.

Mr Justice Wright said: "The conclusion I have arrived at in each case is that it would not be appropriate for me to exercise my discretion to allow the cases to continue. Each of the applications must be refused."

Had it been successful, the application would have paved the way for a larger group of lung-cancer sufferers, who lodged claims more than three years after diagnosis, to sue the two firms. Now 14 sufferers of an original group of 52 will proceed with compensation claims against the firms in a trial due next year.

After the judgment was handed down, Martyn Day and Irvin Mitchell, the solicitors representing the plaintiffs, issued a joint statement. "Obviously many clients will be disappointed... We now have to consider this very carefully to determine how next to proceed."

A Gallaher spokesman said: "We were always confident we would get this judgment. We clearly welcome it."

The lung-cancer sufferers had claimed at an earlier hearing at the High Court in London that the eight suffered injury because all the cigarettes with which they were supplied between the 1950s and 1970s contained far more tar than was reasonably safe or appropriate.

Clampdown on adverts by 'irresponsible' Sony

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

SONY UK has been ordered to submit all its advertising posters to watchdogs before they are displayed after being branded "irresponsible" following a number of rulings against it.

In the most recent cases, complaints against two campaigns have been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) for being distasteful and offensive.

The company is only the third advertiser to be forced to take the extraordinary measure of now having its advertising vetted in advance. The other two are the Commission for Racial Equality and Talk Radio.

In the most astonishing case, 80 complaints were upheld against Sony's Playstation division for sending to 500,000 homes in October envelopes marked "Private & Confidential" and "Test Results".

Many of those who complained were sick people awaiting real medical test results. One man in Scotland who received the mock test results was awaiting the outcome of chemotherapy for cancer.

Sony's mock results included an addressed card headed, "This is your medical card", and then went on to say: "I am writing as a matter of urgency with your scan results - they reveal early stages of a progressive condition for which I am prescribing immediate treatment...". The mailing also contained mock X-rays. The warning that it did not contain real results was in small print on the other side of the card.

In a separate ruling, the same division of Sony has been told to have all its posters vetted after the ASA upheld eight complaints against a poster for its game, Tekken 3. This poster featured a dismembered body in a mortuary with its feet pointing out of opposite ends of a sheet. The advertiser said the poster was meant to be surreal and comic

like a cartoon, but the ASA ruled that it was too realistic.

"Sony is certainly irresponsible," a spokesman for the ASA said. "It is quite rare to have two taste and decency complaints upheld in one monthly report. Admittedly, there have always been problems with computer games because they are targeted at 18- to 25-year-olds, but the companies have enough money to buy posters which are seen by everyone. The same adverts would not attract rulings if they had been in style or Playstation magazines."

Sony had to rapidly take down a poster campaign for its Playstation game Coolboarders last year after it attracted complaints about the drug references in the advertisement. The posters included the phrase: "My body aches for Powder, I need the rush. Have to get higher than last time."

And in 1997 Sony was again in trouble when it printed an advert on thin perforated card so that 70 small oblong shapes could be torn off and rolled up to form "roaches" - filters for cannabis joints. The cards appeared in style magazines, such as i-D and Muz Mag, and were handed out to clubbers.

A spokesman for Sony denied that the company deliberately used shock tactics: "The Tekken 3 poster campaign was seen by 10 million people and just 10 complained about it, hot of course we will comply with the ASA ruling. We have already apologised personally to everyone who was aggrieved by the mail out."

gest the C2a strain is any nastier than any of the other strains, but because we have been exposed to it more recently it may cause more virulent disease."

Dr Meyrion Evans, a public health consultant for Bro Taf Health Authority, which is handling the south Wales outbreak, said no new cases had been identified in school pupils since

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Irvine Welsh held on drink charge

BY JACKIE BURDON

IRVINE WELSH, author of the book *Trainspotting*, was arrested for being drunk on a railway station, it emerged yesterday.

Welsh was held in Exeter police cells after a binge which stretched over two days and several counties.

A British Transport Police spokesman said the 41-year-old writer had been arrested on a platform at St David Station in Exeter last Friday evening. He had been "causing problems" in the buffet bar.

Welsh was later released after being given a caution.

Last Wednesday night, he had toasted the London opening of his play *You'll Have Had Your Hole*, which has been attacked by critics for foul language and violent sex.

He was also celebrating completion of a new single recorded that day with his band Hibernia Nation. Welsh's spokesman said: "He had been celebrating and drinking with his friends ever since the gala premiere on Wednesday night. He was very up with it all."

After police released him, he went to a local club, where an official said: "He was jovial, good-natured and good company."

Households

CLIMBER survives clinging to ledge

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Lesley Howies, the first woman to join the 144-year-old Black Dyke Mills Band, rehearsing in Queensbury, West Yorkshire John Furlong

Law forcing doctors to go on defensive

DOCTORS WERE resorting to defensive medicine in the face of confrontational and litigious patients who had lost faith in the medical profession, the country's chief medical regulator said last night.

Sir Donald Irvine, president of the General Medical Council, the doctors' disciplinary body, said a major change in the regulation of doctors to ensure they maintained high standards and protect patients from poor practice was required if public trust was to be restored.

In defensive medicine, patients receive sometimes unnecessary and aggressive treatment to avoid a charge of

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

medical negligence. The implication of Sir Donald's comments is that if there were greater trust in doctors the pressure on them to treat defensively might recede.

On the eve of a vote by the council today on a proposal that every doctor's right to practise should depend upon passing regular checks of their competence throughout their careers, Sir Donald said there was a realisation within the profession that "British medicine must be changed utterly".

He was speaking yesterday at the launch of a book, *Medical Mishaps*, by Linda Mulcahy, to which he has contributed a chapter, at the Kings Fund in London. In the book, he states that patients have been demanding to know how they can be assured that "the doctor they will see next week at the surgery or the hospital is really up to date and on top of the job".

Patients were seeking a less dependent, more evenly balanced relationship with their doctors, which some welcomed but others found difficult and demanding. "Across a broad spectrum of the profession there is a general anxiety that we may be drifting towards a more confrontational and litigious climate in Britain in which defensive medicine becomes part of everyday practice," he said.

Sir Donald, a former GP in Northumberland who has been president for two years, has campaigned to reform the regulation of doctors in the wake of high-profile cases, including the Bristol heart babies disaster and the Kent gynaecologist

who injured scores of women, which have fuelled public discontent.

The cases exposed the arrogance, insularity and lack of accountability of some doctors and the fact that after completing training there were no further checks on performance.

Doctors have also come under pressure from the Government, which is seeking to take powers under the NHS Bill to alter regulations governing their registration.

However, Sir Donald's efforts to deal with these twin pressures suffered a setback last November when the 104-member council accepted the principle of regular checks but refused to agree that those who failed them should be struck off the medical register.

A steering group was set up to examine the process of "revalidation", and in a report last week it said it must be linked with continued registration. In place of exams, which were rejected, the checks would involve drawing up performance "profiles", including targets to be met and a record of participation in clinical audit, which would be monitored by external assessors.

Doctors who failed the checks would be offered advice and retraining or, in more serious cases, be dealt with formally under the GMC's performance procedures. Striking a doctor off the register would be the ultimate sanction.

Sir Donald has staked his reputation on the outcome of today's vote and if the reforms are rejected he could be forced to resign.

If the vote is carried, as expected, it will usher in the biggest change in regulation of doctors in more than 100 years.

Waiting lists rise by 13,000

FRANK DOBSON is facing a fresh blow to his promise of cutting NHS waiting lists with the publication tomorrow of the latest figures showing that the number of patients waiting for treatment has risen by 13,000. The increase will be attacked by the Tories as a sign of the Government's failure to deliver its promises on the NHS.

However, the Secretary of State for Health will argue that the rise in the December figures is a "blip" caused by the extra winter pressures on NHS hospitals, and he will achieve his target of cutting the total by 100,000 by April. "We are still on course to achieve our target," said a Whitehall source.

Mr Dobson ordered the figures to be collected and published each month. He has been advised the figures for the first quarter of this year would mark an over all reduction of over 40,000, comfortably achieving his promise a year ago to get the waiting lists down, by April, to the level inherited from the Tories when Labour took office.

The Health Secretary has reassured Tony Blair that Labour's general election pledge to cut the waiting lists by 100,000 is achievable by the

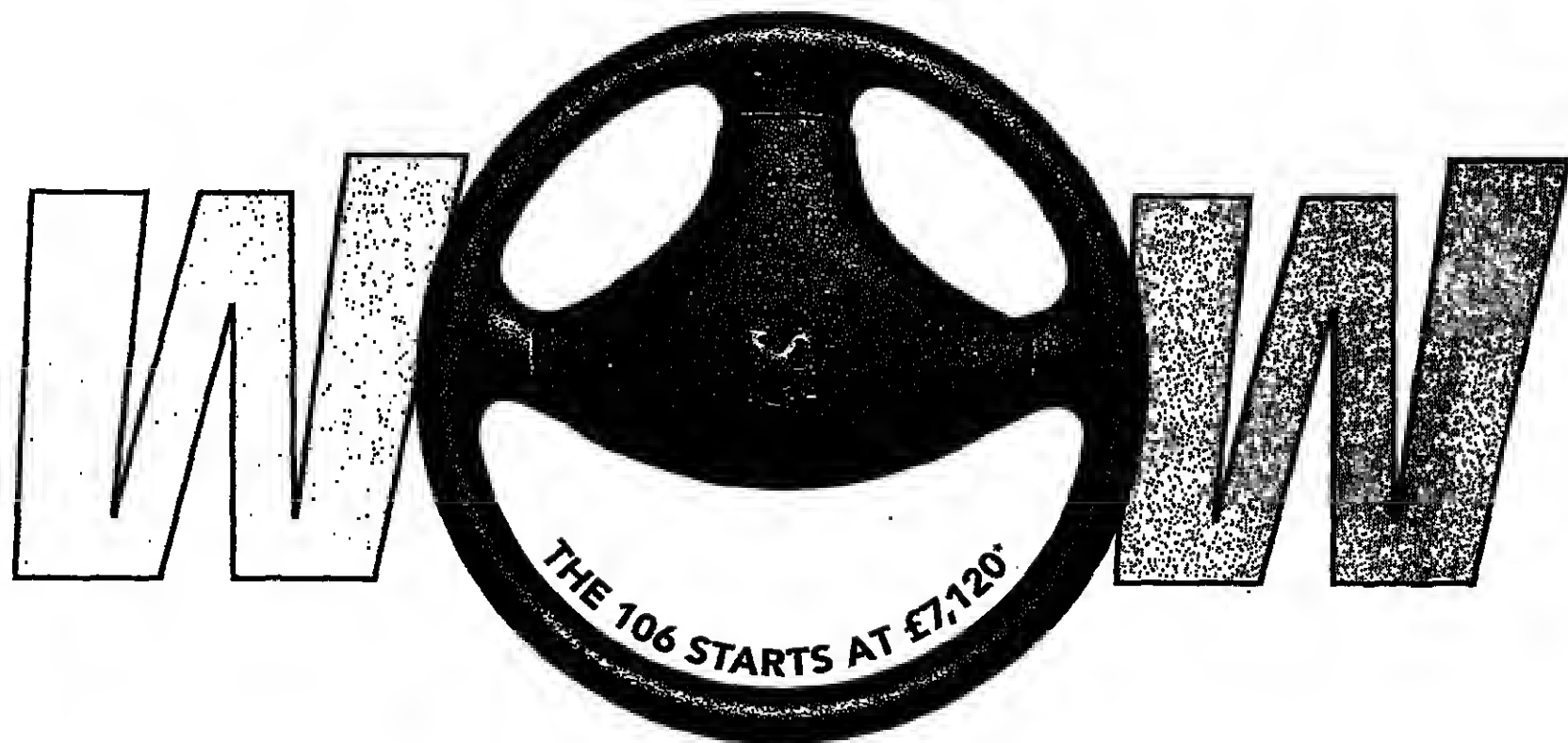
BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

end of the Parliament, in spite of the December rise.

The cause of the rise in the numbers waiting is believed to have been a combination of flu, GP surgeries closing for the Christmas and New Year holidays, and a panic over meningitis which led patients in droves to seek help in accident and emergency units.

The total number waiting in November, the last month for which the figures were published, stood at 1,162,100, which represented a fall of 31,400 on the previous month. The total number waiting fell by 136,000 between March, when he gave his pledge, and November.

The Health Minister, John Denham, will be announcing more cash with special assistance for health authorities, which have demonstrated they are modernising services. The new pay deal for the NHS, ranging from 4.7 per cent for most nurses to 12 per cent for nurse trainees, will have to be met partly from efficiency savings, but the Health Secretary denies that this will put extra pressures on the health service to meet its target.



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How America had Oscars for breakfast

"PLEASE TRY to behave yourselves!" announced a disembodied voice to the assembled crowd of journalists, television crews and anxious publicists as we made our way up the stairs of the Samuel Goldwyn theatre for the grand announcement of this year's Academy Award nominations.

It was hardly a scream. In fact, apart from the odd culprit carrying a plastic coffee cup past the "no food or drink beyond this point" sign, there was barely a murmur of haste or undue anticipation. After all, it was 5.30am - a ludicrous time to organise a media event of any kind, but one that gave a telltale clue about the true purpose of the proceedings.

Honouring the most distinguished film professionals of the past year was only part of the story. The main object of the exercise was to pack as many freshly honoured nominees on to the breakfast television shows as possible.

As the president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Bob Rehme, stepped out onto the stage with his celebrity co-host, Kevin Spacey, producers and publicists nervously cradled their mobile phones in one hand and fingered their list of key phone numbers in the other.

The presenters did not bother read out the whole list, just the nominees for acting, directing, screenwriting and best film - proof, if any was needed, that Mr Spacey set his alarm clock and donned his best suit not for the benefit of the assembled hacks but to brighten the feeds to the morning news magazines. There were cheers and applause for a few of the popular nominees - Cate Blanchett and Lynn Redgrave obviously have their fans among the foot-soldiers of the big networks - but the affair was treated largely as a mechanical exercise in media logistics.

"Let's call James Coburn at home!" murmured one TV executive as his name came up for best supporting actor in the

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

Paul Schrader movie, *Affliction*. "Where's Steven Spielberg? Have we figured out if he has left for Berlin yet?" asked another. The producer-director of *Saving Private Ryan*, up for 11 awards, was on his way to the Berlin Film Festival to present *The Last Days*, a Holocaust documentary he produced.

As the more obsessive Oscar watchers pointed out, while he is there he will find it hard not to run into Private Ryan's arrival, *Shakespeare in Love* (13 nominations), which is showing in the festival competition.

The brief show over, the real scrum began as publicists ran for the full nominations lists being handed out at the back of the theatre. Is there a client on this list, they all wondered, scouring the small print of awards for make-up, sound editing and best documentary.

Amid the confusion, the folks from Miramax looked particularly smug. Not only was their *Shakespeare in Love* the biggest winner of the morning, but *Life Is Beautiful*, Roberto Benigni's bittersweet concentration camp comedy, garnered an astonishing seven nominations - the biggest haul ever for a foreign (Italian) film, including nods for best film, best actor (Benigni), best director (Benigni) and best screenwriter (Mr Benigni again).

This coup was no fluke - Miramax has been promoting both films with extraordinary energy since the start of the year. The Oscars are quintessential show business, and marketing is increasingly the prime force in that business.

Having won the battle, though, Miramax now has to win the war - or rather hope that its versions of war (*Life Is Beautiful*) and love and war (*Shakespeare in Love*) win out over the darker, more brooding visions of conflict on offer (*Saving Private Ryan* and Terrence Malick's *The Thin Red Line*). All will be revealed on 21 March.



The actor Kevin Spacey and Academy president, Robert Rehme, announcing the names, backed by images of best actor nominees, from bottom, Roberto Benigni, Tom Hanks, Ian McKellen, Nick Nolte and Edward Norton

NOMINEES FOR MAIN AWARDS

Best Picture: *Elizabeth*; *Life Is Beautiful*; *Saving Private Ryan*; *Shakespeare in Love*; *The Thin Red Line*.
Best Actor: Roberto Benigni, *Life Is Beautiful*; Tom Hanks, *Saving Private Ryan*; Sir Ian McKellen, *Gods and Monsters*; Nick Nolte, *Affliction*; Edward Norton, *American History X*.
Best Actress: Cate Blanchett, *Elizabeth*; Fernanda Montenegro, *Central Station*; Gwyneth Paltrow, *Shakespeare in Love*; Meryl Streep, *One True Thing*; Emily Watson, *History and Jackie*.
Supporting Actor: James Coburn, *Affliction*; Robert Duvall, *A Civil Action*; Ed Harris, *The Truman Show*; Geoffrey Rush, *Shakespeare in Love*; Billy Bob Thornton, *A Simple Plan*.
Supporting Actress: Kathy Bates, *Primary Colors*; Brenda Blethyn, *Little Voice*; Dame Judi Dench, *Shakespeare in Love*; Rachel Griffiths, *Hilary and Jackie*; Lynn Redgrave, *Gods and Monsters*.
Director: Roberto Benigni, *Life Is Beautiful*; Steven Spielberg, *Saving Private Ryan*; John Madden, *Shakespeare in Love*; Terrence Malick, *The Thin Red Line*; Peter Weir, *The Truman Show*.
Foreign Film: *Central Station*, Brazil; *Children of Heaven*, Iran; *The Grandfather*, Spain; *Life Is Beautiful*, Italy; *Tango*, Argentina.
Screenplay, written directly for the screen: Warren Beatty and Jeremy Pikser, *Bulworth*; Vincenzo Cerami and Roberto Benigni, *Life Is Beautiful*; Robert Rodat, *Saving Private Ryan*; Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, *Shakespeare in Love*; Andrew Niccol, *The Truman Show*.
Screenplay, based on material previously produced or published: Bill Condon, *Gods and Monsters*; Scott Frank, *Out of Sight*; Elaine May, *Primary Colors*; Scott B Smith, *A Simple Plan*; Terrence Malick, *The Thin Red Line*.

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Hague unveils his 'caring Conservatism'

WILLIAM HAGUE will answer his Tory critics by unveiling a new brand of "caring Conservatism" during a five-day North American tour starting tonight.

The Tory leader, facing growing criticism from his MPs after failing to slash Labour's commanding lead in the opinion polls, will argue that the party can no longer rely on its traditional economic competence to propel it back into power.

He will say that the Tories must convince people that they hold the right values and the new policies to tackle social issues such as health, education, welfare, crime, the inner cities and the underclass.

"In the 1980s, the problems facing Britain were on the economy, but today there are different challenges," said an aide yesterday.

Details of Mr Hague's new agenda emerged in an internal party report, leaked to *The Independent*, which suggests that the Conservatives will water down their long-held support for the free market.

"Although the market is one of the most useful tools we have, it is just that - a tool," says the report, sent by Conservative Central Office to local activists as part of a policy consultation exercise. "Conservatives do not worship the market as an

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

end in itself; they value it as a useful means to an end."

The report continues: "The Government should stand ready to intervene in the market in the interests of economic efficiency or because some other aspect of our well-being depends upon it - provided that a strong case can be made."

During his trip to the United States, Mr Hague will hold talks with Republican strategists and politicians in the hope of learning lessons on how the right can fight back against the centre-left, now in the ascendant in Europe and America. He will meet George Bush Jr, the Governor of Texas and son of the former US president, who broadened Republican appeal through "caring" policies such as a big drive to improve literacy in schools.

Mr Hague will make speeches on "the right way" - his response to Tony Blair's trumpeted "third way" and on "common sense Conservatism".

The Tory leader will stress that "compassion" does not necessarily mean higher spending, adding that, while adequate funding is an issue, new ways must be found to tackle social problems.

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THE INDEPENDENT
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Melting the image of the actress turned ice queen

"OPEN-MINDED though I am, masochism has never had any attractions for me," confessed Glenda Jackson, responding to an impertinent inquiry about her private appetites from Dr Stephen Ladyman.

He had invited her, should she be at all that way inclined, to indulge in the delicious degradation of a rail trip to Ramsgate, a journey that she would have to make in "an antediluvian carriage knee-deep in silt". When I see Ms Jackson in the house I'm afraid I can't help but think of Oliver Reed, wrapped around her like a freakishly hairy boa constrictor, but Mr Ladyman's choice of phrase provoked quite an

other flashback. Surely these were the very words used by Mary Whitehouse to describe the notorious "Tchaikovsky's wedding night" scene in Ken Russell's overheated biopic about the composer - a scene in which Tchaikovsky failed the nuptial assay of his manhood, looking on aghast as Ms Jackson writhed unsated on the floor of a Tsarist sleeper carriage, like a Connex South East commuter who has finally gone mad.

Dear me, how different she is today. Any masochists in the house - and one assumes there must be a couple - will have recognised with a secret thrill that her talents lie in

quite the opposite direction. On her showing in the Commons she would make a formidable mistress, the features sculpted into a mask of implacable severity, the stern voice with that nasal tone, which operates like auditory cat-o'-nines, flicking at whichever cringing MP has risked a question.

She does smile now and then, it's true, usually when a frontbench colleague has stung the Opposition, but what a chilly and transitory thing that smile is - more a flickering contemplation of cruelties to come than an expression of warmth. When she assures the House that "every penny" of road charges

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

"will be spent on improving road services in London" you can't imagine that anyone would dare to

spend a penny in any other way.

That this impression might be misleading was revealed by closer inspection in one of Westminster's *salles privées*. Because later in the afternoon Ms Jackson was addressing Standing Committee A, considering the Greater London Authority Bill, the legislation which paves the way for a London mayor.

Of course the transformation isn't magical - for long periods she wears the sort of expression you might summon if asked to mime "Witchfinder-General listening to a plea in mitigation" - but the vigour of the procedures does seem to exert a broadly mollifying influence.

Standing Committee A would lighten anyone's mood, being conducted by its chairman, Nicholas Winter, as if it is an odd kind of legislative game show. Mr Winter speaks as though the committee members are in the Upper Circle of the Royal Albert Hall, rather than just a few feet away, and manages the business with a choleric joviality, booming his catchphrase - "As many as are of that opinion say AYE!" - in the unmistakable cadences of Bruce Forsyth.

His brisk bark can be unsettling. "Mr Chairman, you're so frightening I've completely forgotten what I was going to say," confessed John

Taylor, after he'd risen to intervene during a discussion about ensuring that the Mayor's staff represented the diversity of London's citizens.

After a few seconds to recover his wits he made his point - bald people should not be discriminated against either. Well, maybe wits isn't the right word, but Mr Taylor's little joke melted Ms Jackson further - after serving up her usual portion of procedural small print in reply she added that he shouldn't have said bald - the correct term was "follicularly challenged".

I could have sworn from the smile on her face that she was actually enjoying herself.

Labour left fears gap in unions Bill

LABOUR backbenchers called for safeguards to protect workers' rights in small companies yesterday, criticising the Government's decision to exclude them from legislation to make union recognition compulsory.

Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, challenged ministers over their decision to include a cut-off point for firms with less than 20 employees under the Employment Relations Bill.

Speaking during the Bill's second reading debate, Mr Skinner warned there were large numbers of firms that had already granted recognition to various trade unions in workforces of under 20 which may now change their policy.

"One of the dangers that can arise, is that some of these firms might well say because there is a cut-off point, and I have got 18 employees, therefore I will abide by the law that says I don't have to accept trade union recognition ... What kind of safeguards will be made available?"

But while Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, acknowledged the

EMPLOYMENT
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

"disappointment" that was felt by some workers, he said the legislation did nothing to discourage voluntary recognition.

Stressing the Government did not want to impose an undue burden on business, he said: "This is, we believe, a reasonable and balanced package ... the Government has taken the view that it's reasonable to have a cut-off."

Under the Bill, unions will gain automatic recognition if they have more than 50 per cent in a bargaining unit in companies where the workforce is bigger than 20.

The measures would boost the trade union movement because workers would now see a reason for joining, Mr Byers said.

"At long last, in 1999, we will ensure that no one can be blacklisted simply because they are a trade union or are prepared to defend and represent the interests of their colleagues at work. This Bill will

replace the policy of conflict between employers and employees with one of partnership, a partnership based on rights matched by responsibilities."

More disputes should be settled by negotiation by extending the deadline for an industrial action ballot to up to four weeks. "Some steps were needed to curb the worst of trade union excesses and these measures will be retained," Mr Byers said.

Under the legislation "family-friendly" policies, partnership in the workplace, and equal and fair treatment for all workers, regardless of whether they work full or part-time, would be ensured, he said.

John Redwood, the Tory spokesman on trade and industry, attacked the Bill and said it would "jeopardise employment, endanger the successful legacy of good industrial relations left by the last Government, impose further damaging costs on British business and risk industrial strikes and disruption, rather than leaving employers and employees free to settle relationships for themselves without outside interference".



Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP, snapping the Earl of Lichfield as he opened the Parliamentary Photographic Group's exhibition at the Commons in Westminster yesterday. The show, open until Friday, has more than 100 images, taken by members of both Houses. Tom Pilon

Company car tax breaks to end

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor, may scrap tax breaks for company car owners as part of a strategy to reduce pollution, ministers signalled yesterday.

Dr John Reid, the Transport Minister, gave the clearest in-

TRANSPORT
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
AND COLIN BROWN

dication so far that an increase of taxes for motorists to get more people into public transport would be part of the Chancellor's forthcoming budget on 9 March.

Dr Reid said during question time that Mr Brown took an "enlightened and rational" view and concerns "would not have fallen on stony soil".

"I can confirm that two areas, the tax breaks which encourage people to drive more

business miles, on the other hand the disincentive by taxing as benefits in kind those employers and employees who benefit from buses, for instance being laid on to bring them to work, have been subject of discussions between our departments," he said.

Private mileage done by the country's 2.3 million company cars is more than twice the national average. It accounts for 10 per cent of congestion on the roads and for emitting eight million tons of carbon dioxide every year.

The Chancellor is also ex-

pected to penalise cars with poor fuel efficiency.

He has already announced his intention to charge owners of small-engined cars £50 less than the £150 car tax.

But William Hague, the Tory leader, warned that an increase of taxes on company cars could lose jobs, stressing that environmental measures should be introduced as part of a low taxation strategy.

The Tories also said they would use the election campaign for the new Mayor of London to fight the Government's plans to introduce congestion

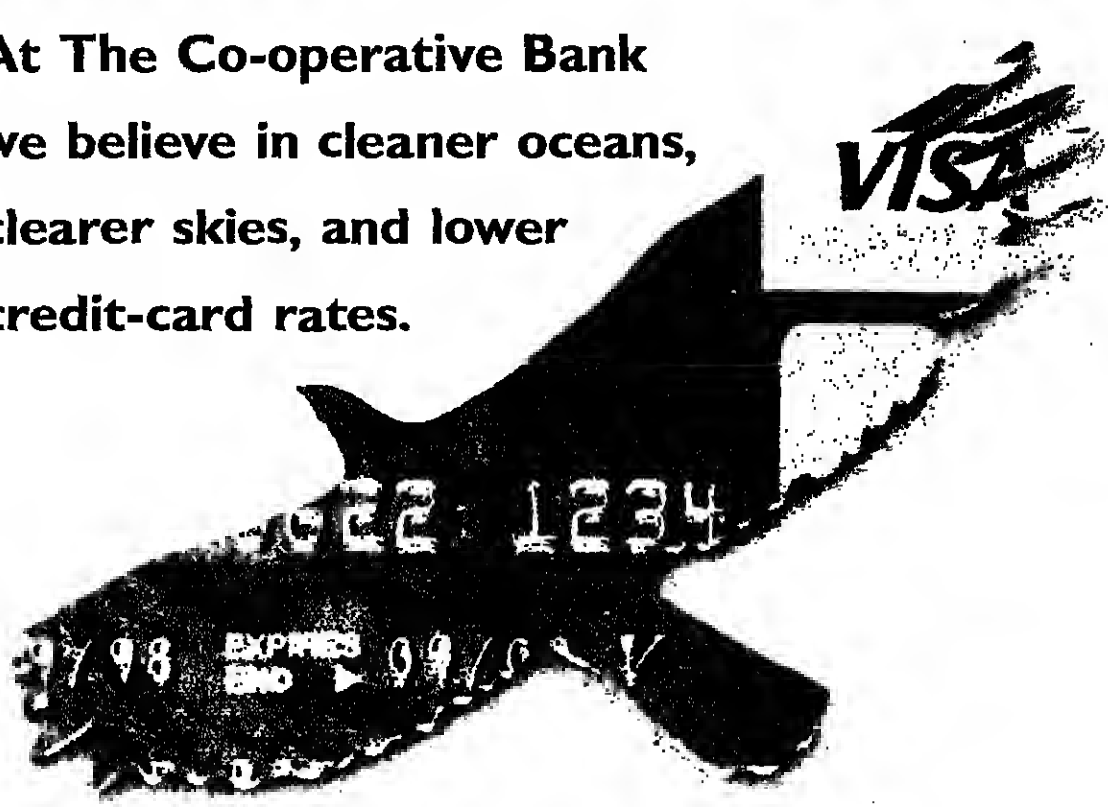
charging on motorists commuting by car into the capital.

Richard Ottaway, the Tory spokesman on London, said: "It is just using the motorist as a milch cow. It will be a tax by the back door and we are going to oppose it as part of our election campaign."

He said some reports suggested that motorists would have to be charged £8 to force them onto public transport but Mr Ottaway said the Government was considering a charge of £2. "That won't deter anyone. It would be a new tax on motorists," he said.

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Minister in GM foods row

CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

LORD SAINSBURY, the Trade and Industry Minister, came under renewed pressure from the Tories yesterday to clarify potential conflicts of interest between his business interests and government policy on genetically modified foods.

John Redwood, the Conservative spokesman on trade and industry, insisted last night that the supermarket millionaire should not be allowed to make any decisions on GM foods.

In a letter to Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, he said that the Government needed to "take a cool hard look" at the scientific evidence to decide which of the products was safe for sale.

Lord Sainsbury's continuing interest as a shareholder in the Sainsbury supermarket chain gave the impression that he had made up his mind about the safety of GM foods, Mr Redwood claimed.

"I am very worried that leav-



Lord Sainsbury: Conflict

ing Lord Sainsbury in charge of the DTI and is bad for the food industry and bad for customers," he wrote.

"Will you now take the necessary action to ensure that a minister who has not made up his mind on these matters is put in charge of these issues at the DTI?"

Mr Redwood also asked Mr Byers to check whether Lord Sainsbury had maintained an interest in the Gatsby Trust, a charitable foundation that allegedly funds the promotion of GM products.

Councils given new tax power

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BY PAUL WAUGH

Simon Burns, the Conservatives' environment spokesman, said that the idea of a new local business tax would horrify most firms. "Businesses both small and large would suffer from having to bail out councils. This takes the gloss off (Labour's) attempt to portray beacon councils as centres of excellence. It is a quite disgraceful idea," he said.

Andrew Hawkins, policy director of the London Chamber of Commerce, said: "We have great concerns about this. Councils have been dying to get their hands on the business rate again, but we believe that no local rate should be set unless more than half of the firms agree to it in a referendum. No taxation without representation, is our stance."

"It may appear to be a modest top slice, but we calculated recently that a company could face a £10m rise in rates for every 1 per cent rise in the business rate across the UK."

He said some reports suggested that motorists would have to be charged £8 to force them onto public transport but Mr Ottaway said the Government was considering a charge of £2. "That won't deter anyone. It would be a new tax on motorists," he said.

Net concerns

A review of the industry-backed Internet Watch Foundation found that the organisation had dealt with 453 "actionable" reports of illegal material, mostly foreign child pornography, Trade and Industry Minister Michael Wills said.

Extradition push
The Government has received 10,000 responses on the General Pinochet case and 9,000 supported his extradition, Home Secretary Jack Straw disclosed.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Piercing checks

Local authorities are set to gain powers to regulate cosmetic body piercing businesses, Public Health Minister, Tessa Jowell, said. At the moment only local authorities in London have power to license, register and inspect body piercing businesses.

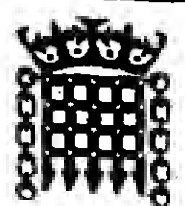
NHS criticism

Tory peers attacked the Government's Health Bill, which abolishes the NHS internal market and sets up primary care trusts as "a recipe for inflexibility, inefficiency", with a lack of choice.

Cook under fire

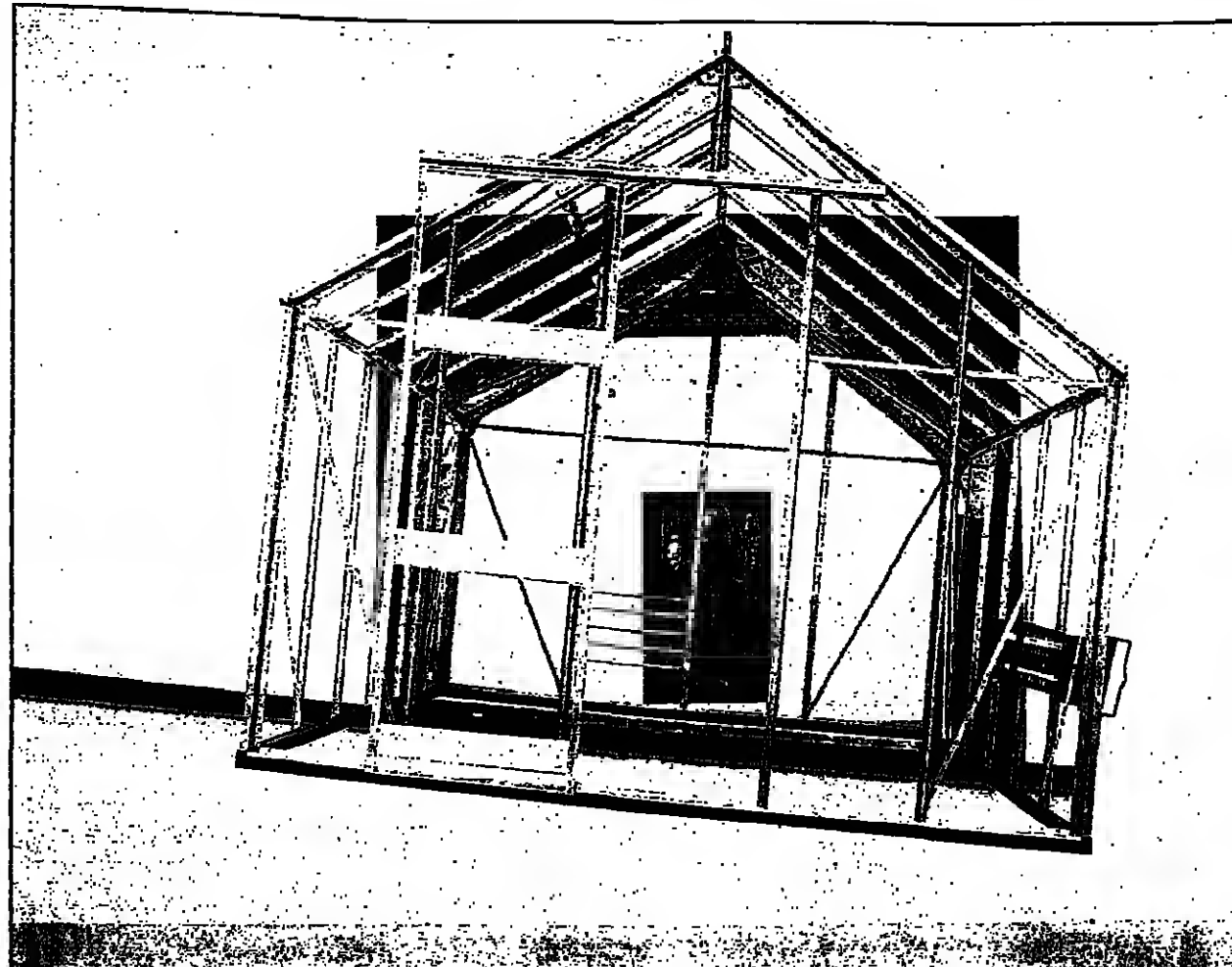
Labour leaders of a cross-party group of 380 MPs are seeking an urgent meeting with Robin Cook after attacking his efforts to forge closer diplomatic and commercial links with Iran.

THE HOUSE



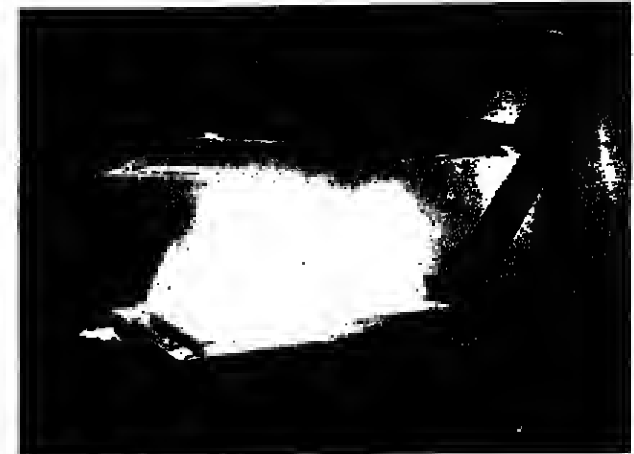
Abattoir delays

It could take "some years" before supervision by vets of slaughterhouses could be brought up to European standard, said Agriculture Minister Lord Donoughue.



Richard Wilson's 'High Rise', 1989, is among the 100 works in Charles Saatchi's donation to the Arts Council

Saatchi donates £500,000 Britart package to nation



The donation of work by young British artists of the Nineties includes (from the left) James Rielly's 'Object of Fun', 1995; Rose Finn-Kelcey's 'Steam Installation', 1992; and Siobhan Hapaska's 'Saint Christopher', 1995

CHARLES SAATCHI, the contemporary art collector, is donating 100 works of art to the Arts Council's 7,000-strong collection. The gift, estimated to be worth £500,000, will join the collection which is administered by the Hayward Gallery at South Bank in London and is used for touring

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

exhibitions and loans to galleries and museums in Glasgow, Liverpool, Penzance and Newcastle.

Mr Saatchi's gift includes some of the more bizarre offerings from his angst-ridden

Young British Artists - such works as Rose Finn-Kelcey's 'Steam Installation' - a dancing vortex of steam contained in a giant "wafile" construction - and John Frankland's 'You Can't Touch This' - a gold lobby and lift created entirely from laminated polythene stretched over a wooden framework.

Mr Saatchi said: "No institution does more than the Hayward Gallery on behalf of the Arts Council to curate touring exhibitions and loans to the nation's galleries and museums. It will give these artists a chance to be seen more widely across the country."

Special zones for asylum seekers

THE HOME Secretary is to assume new powers to commandeer council homes for use by asylum seekers. The plan, to force local authorities around Britain to set up new "Reception Zones", forms part of the Immigration & Asylum Bill published yesterday.

The move by Jack Straw is bound to provoke criticism that the Government risks creating ghettos in unwanted housing in regional towns and cities. The Bill states that if the Home Secretary was "unable to secure sufficient accommodation by voluntary agreement with the local authorities of an area" he may commandeer the identified properties for the purpose of housing asylum seekers.

Yesterday the Home Office minister Michael O'Brien said the refugees would not be placed in "sink estates". He said: "The aim is to put them in clusters in areas where there's an element of support. We think it's on this basis that the asylum seekers don't all filter back to London and the South-east."

The Government hopes to take the financial burden off councils in London and near Channel ports by paying authorities elsewhere in the country £165 a head to house refugees.

The Bill, which Mr Straw described as the "most comprehensive overhaul" of the immigration system for decades, states that asylum seekers would be paid in vouchers not cash. Those who refuse to remain in their allocated accommodation will automatically lose their right to support.

Mr Straw said: "If you are just trying to take us for a ride and you mess about and place yourself in a position where you can no longer receive support, that's your decision."

Among new measures des-

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

igned to curb illegal immigration is an end to so-called "quickie marriages" by requiring couples to give 15 days' notice of their intention to wed.

A crackdown on unscrupulous immigration advisers will include an annual charge of £6,500 for any firm wishing to practice in this area. The Government also hopes to save around £500m a year by a new fast-track appeal process aimed at making an initial decision on a case within two months.

A fine of £2,000 per illegal immigrant is to be imposed on the drivers of vehicles who smuggle people into the country.

The Bill includes plans for a new financial bond scheme whereby sponsors would be asked to make a payment as a guarantee of the intentions of a visitor to the United Kingdom. The money would be forfeited if visiting conditions were breached. Family visitors are to be given a right of appeal if their applications to visit British relatives are turned down.

Mr Straw produced figures showing that in 1998 most asylum seekers came to Britain from areas of conflict, notably the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. The exception was Lithuania, from where 1,300 refugees arrived last year, a pattern which Mr Straw described as "a racket".

He said the Government was also disposing of the controversial "White List" system, which imposes special visiting restrictions on selected nationalities, including Bulgarians and Romanians, and has caused diplomatic tension.

Leading article,
Review, page 3

Doctor struck off over prison drugs

A PRISON doctor was struck off the medical register yesterday after prescribing lethal doses of methadone to two prisoners who had no registered histories of heroin abuse.

Dr Archibald Alexander, from Croydon in Surrey, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct at a General Medical Council hearing in London. He has 15 years' experience with the prison medical service.

The GMC disciplinary committee found he had been "irresponsible" in prescribing fatal doses of the heroin substitute to Carl Owen and David Davies, two inmates at Brixton Prison in south London in 1994. The committee chairman,

Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, accepted that Mr Owen and Mr Davies tried to fool the 63-year-old doctor into believing they were suffering withdrawal symptoms.

"A conscientious assessment of the... patient's condition is a fundamental aspect of good clinical practice and is essential before initiating treatment," said Dr Lee-Potter.

Dr Alexander treated both men with 50 millilitres of methadone and a twice-daily dose of valium for heroin withdrawal without properly checking their medical history, said Michael Mansfield QC, representing the families.

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First European bird to become extinct for 150 years

BY BRIAN UNWIN

A RARE SPECIES of curlew is in grave danger of becoming the first European bird to die out since the great auk more than 150 years ago.

Only nine slender-billed curlews - which breed in Russia and central Asia and winter in places such as the Mediterranean - were seen throughout the world last year.

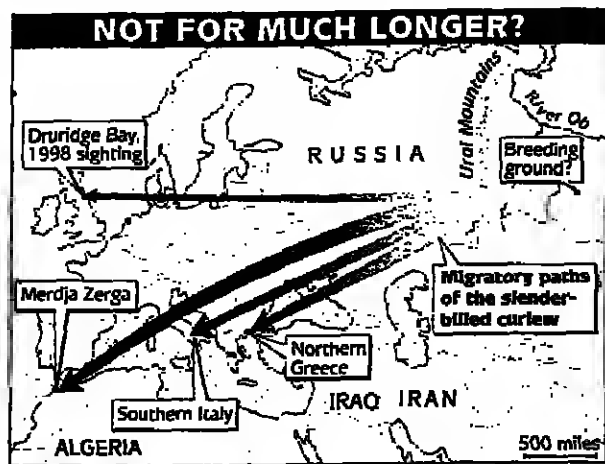
A smaller cousin of the familiar Eurasian curlew, one of Britain's best-known wetland birds, the slender-billed has for several years been classed as "critically endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

"I suspect that, without a miracle, it will become extinct in the next decade," said Dr Will Cresswell, an Oxford University ornithology lecturer.

"One characteristic of species with very low populations - and in the case of the slender-billed curlew there could be as few as 50 left - is that they bump along for years and then something happens and they vanish for good."

Dr Cresswell joined an expedition last summer which spent 10 weeks searching the Kustani, Petyropavlovsk and Pavlodar regions of Kazakhstan for nesting grounds. Not one was found. In fact, no one has set eyes on a slender-billed curlew's nest since 1924, when one was discovered in Russia.

A big problem for conser-



DEATH OF THE GREAT AUK

THE great auk, a flightless seabird resembling a very large razorbill, had no defence against human predators and became extinct in 1844 when the last pair were killed on a small island off Iceland. The last one in Britain died on St Kilda, the remote Scottish island group, in 1840. Two islanders beat it to death, believing it to be a witch.

vationists is the mystery over the bird's movements and the precise whereabouts of its breeding grounds and winter haunts.

The latest edition of *Birding World* magazine reports sightings of the species last year in

only three locations. During April birds turned up at two places in northern Greece, with up to five at Porto Lagos and three on Lake Mitiriki. The only other report was of one in Druridge Bay, Northumberland, in May, which, if

accepted by the British Birds Rareties Committee, was the first sighting in the United Kingdom.

The last known regular winter haunt was Merdja Zerga, a large tidal lagoon on the north-west African coast between

Tangier and Rabat. But each year the number decreased until there was only one, which left in late February 1995 to begin its long spring migration to Russia's steppes. It did not return in the autumn. The same year, up to 19 were also

present at a site in southern Italy up to late March, but they did not return in subsequent winters.

Britain's acknowledged world expert on slender-billed curlews is Adam Gretton, now with the Farming and Wildlife

Advisory Group, who has been on three expeditions to Siberia and one to Kazakhstan looking for nesting birds, without success. In 1994, he estimated the population to be between 50 and 270 birds, but their status appears worse now. He

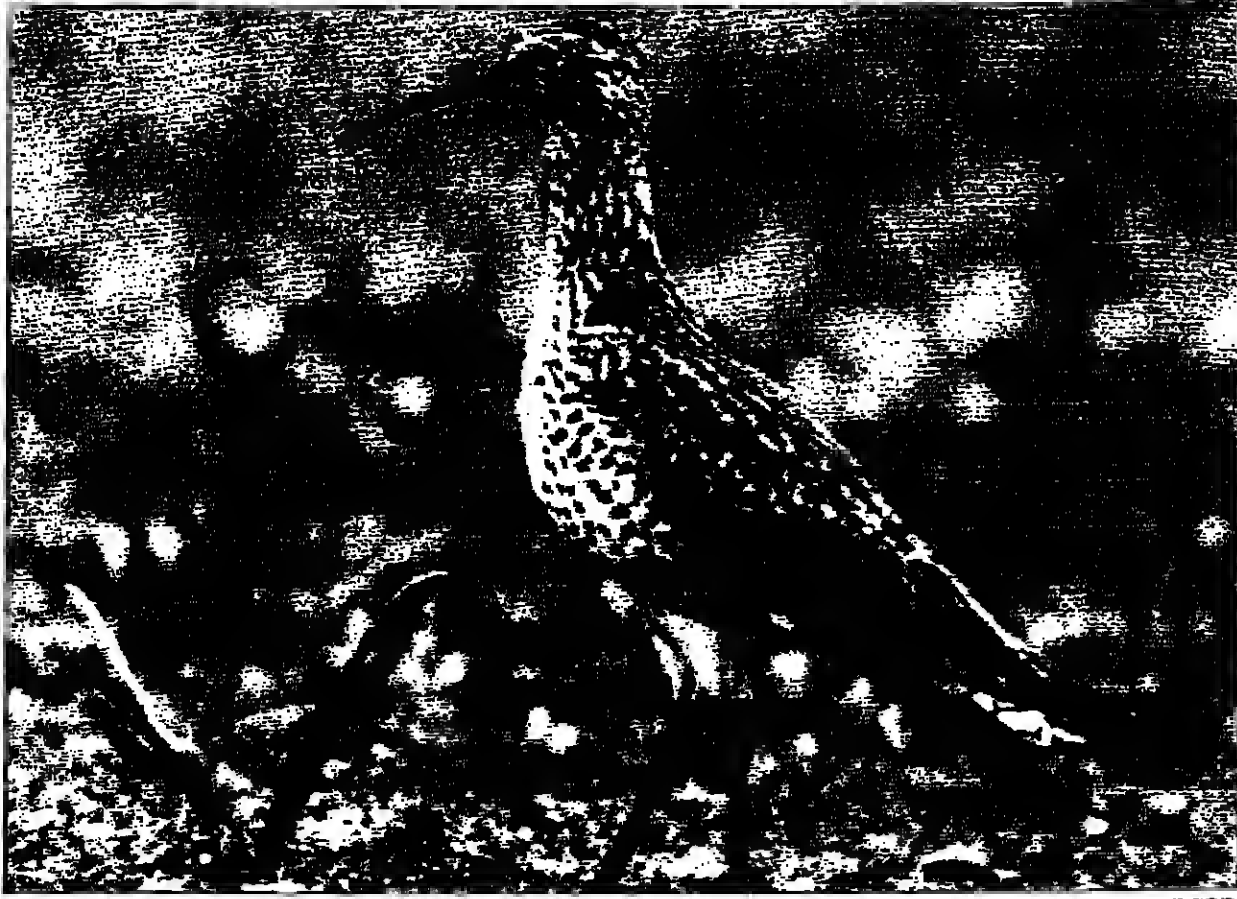
said: "Ten years ago there were up to a dozen records a year internationally. But now that it is down to two or three, the situation is very worrying. But there is a ray of hope. There could be birds wintering regularly in places where access is difficult."

"It is possible there could be regular wintering in Algeria, Iraq and Iran, which, because of the political situation, have become no-go areas for people studying birds. However, the situation is improving in Iran so it may be possible before too long for an expedition to go in there to look for possible sites."

Mr Gretton pointed out: "The other problem continues to be finding their breeding territory. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack. It's somewhere on a marshy steppe east of the Ural mountains, but finding a diminishing population in such a vast region is very difficult."

Slender-billed curlews are generally about 20 per cent smaller than their Eurasian cousins and their long, curved bill is more delicate, but superficially they are very similar and can be told apart only through careful examination. This adds to the problem.

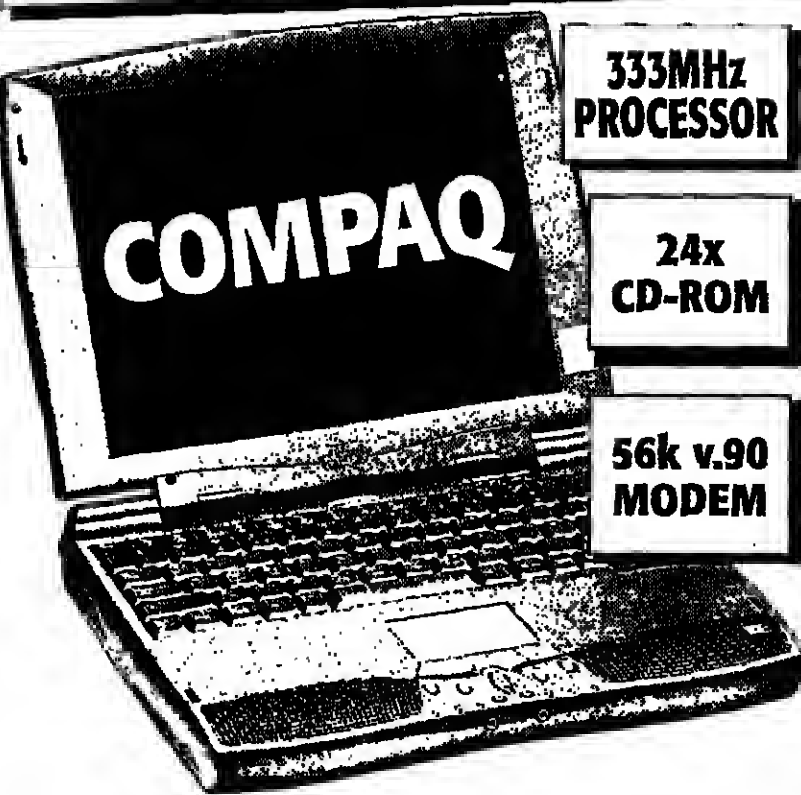
Mr Gretton said at least 17 were known to have been killed by hunters over the past 20 years. It was difficult to prevent this happening when they looked so similar to Eurasian curlews, which are a popular target of hunters.



The slender-billed curlew will probably be extinct in a decade, says an Oxford University ornithologist RSPB

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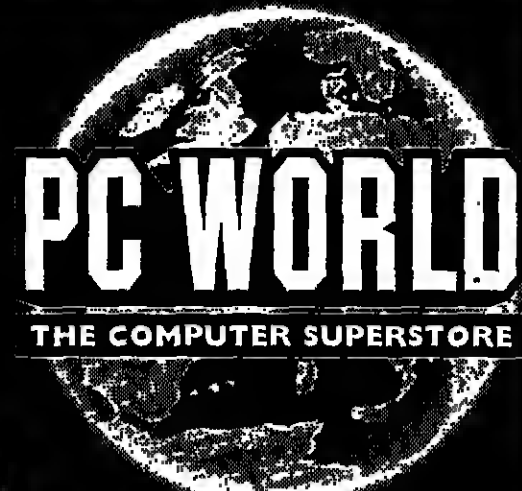
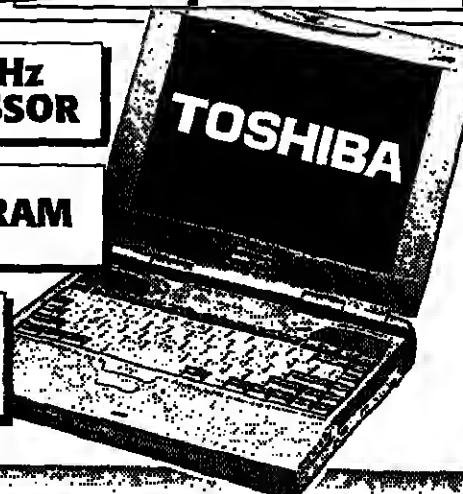
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Pensions threat to offending police

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

JACK STRAW the Home Secretary, is planning to introduce new powers allowing him to confiscate the pensions of police officers who commit serious disciplinary offences.

Mr Straw announced the proposal yesterday in response to increasing concern that police officers have escaped punishment for serious failings by taking early retirement.

The Home Secretary's comments, to the Home Affairs select committee, come days before the publication of the report into the police investigation of the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence.

Only one of five senior officers criticised over their roles in the investigation, Detective Inspector Ben Bullock, will face disciplinary proceedings. He will go before a tribunal next month charged with seven counts of neglect of duty.

A Police Complaints Authority (PCA) report into the Lawrence investigation, which came after a year-long review of the conduct of officers in the case, recommended that five detectives should face disciplinary charges. But the four most senior officers - Detective Chief Superintendent William Islesley, Det Ch Supt Roderick Barker, Detective Superintendent Brian Weedon and Det Supt Ian Crampton - had already retired on full pensions when the

PCA announced its findings.

Amid the public outcry that followed, the PCA called for major changes to the law governing police disciplinary procedures.

Disciplinary charges were only brought against DI Bullock after it emerged that he, too, was planning to retire.

Yesterday Mr Straw said he was looking at introducing powers that would enable him to confiscate up to 75 per cent of a police pension - the proportion which is contributed from state funds - if an officer had committed a serious disciplinary offence.

The Home Secretary currently only has such powers of confiscation in relation to officers who have committed a criminal offence and then retired.

Asked what he was doing to prevent officers from retiring to avoid being disciplined, Mr Straw said: "If they reach retirement age you cannot force them to stay in the service but I'm considering, where there is a public interest, that you could look to act on the pensions question."

Mr Straw also used the committee's debate on police training and recruitment to make a scathing attack on police forces which failed to employ black and Asian officers because "they think they are in wholly white areas". He identified eight forces which had less than 10 ethnic minority officers.

Officers' morale 'badly damaged'

BY JASON BIENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

SENIOR POLICE chiefs are frightened of offending Britain's ethnic communities because of "political correctness", the journal of the Police Federation has claimed.

An editorial in *Police* says morale among officers has been "enormously damaged" by the unwillingness of their leaders to defend them against charges of racism in the wake of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

It says: "In falling over each other to proclaim their liberal credentials, some senior officers are bringing the entire area of police relations with minorities into ridicule and contempt."

FAILING FORCES

	Officers in force	Ethnic minority Officers
Dyfed-Powys	1,002	one
North Wales	1,396	zero
Cumbria	1,164	two
Devon and Cornwall	2,962	five
Dorset	1,310	six
Uncolshire	1,191	seven
Cheshire	2,042	seven

It blames political correctness for senior officers' refusal to justify the disproportionate number of black people stopped and searched. The reason, it suggests, is that "black people are also 'over-represented' among convicted criminals."

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Radio 2 oldies help pep up charts

RADIO 2, the station that for three decades has been associated with the parents of record buyers, is now helping to dictate the pop charts.

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

As more and more forty-something listeners tune in, both the singles and albums charts are showing the influence of the Radio 2 playlist. The arrival of Blondie this week at the top of the charts 18 years after the group's last British number one is not just a tribute to the power of peroxide and 53-year-old singer Debbie Harry. It is confirmation that Radio 2 can now make hits.

was on the A-list of Radio 2's playlist, meaning it was played 20 times a week. Before championing the return of Blondie, Radio 2 backed The Mavericks, who became the country music success of last year, and the Irish family act, The Corrs, who surprised all pop pundits by having three hit singles and the highest selling album of the year. The station has been particularly successful in championing revivals by bands that their listeners would have remembered from their first days of record buying. Aerosmith went from the Radio 2 playlist into the charts before Christmas. Last year also saw chart success from Culture Club and UB40.

Blondie's single "Maria"

FAVOURITES ON THE BABYBOOMERS' PLAYLIST



THE CORRS

Their album *Talk On Corners* sold about 1,680,000 copies last year, helped considerably by three singles from the album, which were on the Radio 2 A-list. Radio 2's Geoff Mullin says: "We championed them for a very long time."



BLONDIE

They are the only band to have a number one in the Seventies, Eighties and Nineties. This time around, though, they were championed by Radio 2 rather than Radio 1. The new single was the record of the week on the Ken Bruce show.



AEROSMITH

The Seventies rock band's latest single, "I Don't Want To Miss A Thing", went to number one at the end of last year. It was on Radio 2's A-list and was played 20 times a week for over a month. Ed Stewart was a big Aerosmith fan.



THE MAVERICKS

The American band spearheaded a country music revival last year and filled the Royal Albert Hall. Radio 2 was the first to play them and featured them live in concert on a Saturday night. They were also on the station's *New Country* show.

Inner London heads the European wealth league

INNER LONDON now tops Europe's league of wealth producers, according to new EU figures. Statistics released yesterday show that the centre of the capital produces more than twice the average EU level of wealth per person, and scores significantly higher than its closest rival, Hamburg.

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels



However outer London, without the considerable wealth-creating capability of the City, scores poorly, with a rating of only 87 per cent of the EU-wide average. Inner London scored 222 per cent.

to a sudden leap in wealth generation. Previously the British capital was well down the list because it had one entry as Greater London and fell well below Hamburg and a clutch of major European cities. Eurostat, the EU's statistical service, said the change had been made at the request of the British government to mirror administrative changes. It lists the population of inner London as 2.7 million, with outer London at 4.36 million, but shows that if they were combined, London would only just scrape

into the top 10 with 138 per cent. Politicians greeted the results with caution. Pauline Green, leader of the socialist group in the European Parliament and MEP for London North, said: "The figures mask pockets of great deprivation. The danger that real need will be obscured by the power of the City to generate wealth is highlighted by the figures for outer London. These depressing figures give a truer picture of London's continuing need for EU assistance."

Statisticians also caution that the figures do not indicate individual personal wealth, and that many of those who work and generate wealth in one area commute in from another. However inner London's strong performance highlighted the acute disparities in the UK's economy, with several regions rating around one third of inner London's rating. No British regions fell within the bottom 10, made up of parts of Greece, Portugal, Spain and former East Germany. But of the 50 EU regions which fell below 75 per cent of the EU average, four are in the UK: Merseyside at 73 per cent, South Yorkshire at 74 per cent, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly at 70 per cent and West Wales and the Valleys at 71 per cent.

Overall, 20 per cent of the EU's population lives in the 50 poorest regions and Germany, as well as the UK, had pronounced differences between regions. By comparison some nations presented a more balanced picture, in Sweden there was a relatively small difference between the lowest reading, for Ostra Mellansverige at 91 per cent, and Stockholm, which registered 122 per cent. The figures were worked out by using the regions' gross domestic product, adjusting it for exchange rate differences to take account of purchasing power, then dividing by the number of people in the area.

GDP PER HEAD IN THE EU			
			
TOP 10		BOTTOM 10	
1 Inner London (above)	222	206 Ipiros, Greece (above)	43
2 Hamburg, Germany	194	207 Azores, Portugal	50
3 Darmstadt, Germany	173	206 Vorelion Ayalon, Greece	50
4 Brussels, Belgium	172	205 Madeira, Portugal	54
5 Luxembourg	170	204 Extremadura, Spain	55
6 Vienna, Austria	165	203 Dessau, Germany	55
7 Ile-de-France	163	202 Dytiki Ellada, Greece	57
8 Oberbayern, Germany	158	201 Chemnitz, Germany	57
9 Bremen, Germany	152	200 Andalusia, Spain	57
10 Antwerp, Belgium	138	199 Magdeburg, Germany	58
EU average, 100. 208 regions surveyed			

Send a Valentine message to your loved one and you could WIN a weekend for two at Grayshott Hall

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Senate shuts doors for verdict

THE MONTH-LONG impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton looks set to fizzle out behind closed doors this week after senators voted yesterday to keep their final deliberations confidential.

Citing the Constitution, precedent, economy of time and the interests of frankness, a sufficient number of senators opposed opening up the session to ensure that the reasons for Mr Clinton's exoneration will remain hidden indefinitely.

Although in the majority, the proponents of openness and accountability could not muster the 67 votes required to open the debate. After the 59-41 vote, the 100 senators sitting in judgment over the United States leader vanished behind the heavy doors of their chamber.

Even three weeks ago, this debate - open or closed - had been anticipated as the culmination of the US constitutional process, the cliff-hanger climax of a trial of principle and precedent. Yesterday, though, there was little public indignation, no suspense and not even a whiff of a sense of history. There was only the shared hope that the senators' self-imposed purdah might hasten the end, and suspicions that the prime concern of anti-glossnost Republicans was not having to voice their condemnation of a popular president within earshot of their voters.

Mr Clinton, meanwhile, was holding the fort alone at the White House, with his wife participating in a population conference in The Netherlands. He will be spared by default, because the Republican majority cannot win over the 12 Democratic votes needed to convict him. Yet even in so predictable a verdict, there were still points to be fought over.

There was trepidation in the Republican camp, for instance, that they might not garner even a simple majority of "guilty" votes on the first article of impeachment alleging perjury. And yesterday, a majority even on the second charge - obstruction of justice - started to look shakier than before.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

Thus far, the Republican vote has held solid (except on the question of whether to call Monica Lewinsky to testify in the chamber in person), and it is a matter of pride for Republican leaders that there should be a majority "guilty" verdict, even if it is not sufficient to convict and remove him.

It is crucial also for the 13 prosecutors from the House of Representatives, led by Henry Hyde, who were entrusted with arguing the case against the President after the House impeachment vote in December.

After a triumphal beginning, when the strength of their opening presentations was widely praised, the prosecutors became increasingly disenchanted with the jurors.

Several have been open about what they felt was condescension stemming from a class divide between House and Senate. The prosecutors, all lawyers by training and members of the House Judiciary Committee, which forwarded the first impeachment recommendation, felt as the days passed that they were not being taken seriously.

After their closing arguments on Monday, some even complained to reporters about the whispering and fidgeting going on in the Senate ranks while they were speaking. And, with one or two notable exceptions, their speeches were more mechanical than impassioned and, in the words of Mr Hyde, who wound up for the prosecution, there was resignation shot through with bitterness. The senators, he implied, were choosing to sacrifice high principle for their own political ends, collective and individual.

At the end of a speech studied with literary and historical references, he betrayed a deep sense of disappointment. "Will an America survive that is worth fighting for?" he asked, and signed off: "Let us all take our place in history on the side of honour - and, oh yes, let right be done."



Hillary Clinton at the UN Population Fund forum in The Hague, attended by 1,500 delegates from 180 countries

Fred Ernst

Man faces jail for stream of expletives

TIMOTHY BOOMER is cursing the day he went canoeing last August on Michigan's Rifle River. He will not be venting his feelings out loud, however. At least, not in front of the children.

Cursing, in fact, and a 101-year-old state law forbidding it when women and children are in earshot, has already got Mr Boomer in trouble. A Michigan judge this week ruled that

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

because of a few choice words allegedly spoken by him on the river that day, he must stand trial. He faces a jail term.

The alleged crime was committed when Mr Boomer, 24, tipped out of his canoe. He reacted by unleashing a stream of expletives - just as a couple

and their two children were paddling by. According to Tammy Smith, the mother, Mr Boomer's outburst was so loud and obscene she had to cup her hands over her two-year-old daughter's ears. In her complaint to police, she claimed Mr Boomer in particular had yelled one curse word "over and over and over and over again".

On Monday, a Michigan

judge dismissed arguments that Mr Boomer should be protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution guaranteeing rights to free speech and ordered him to stand trial for violation of the 1897 law on blaspheming. The trial will begin on 24 February. If he is found guilty, Mr Boomer could be punished with 90 days in prison and a fine of \$100.

"Mr Boomer's words were without any socially redeeming quality whatsoever," Judge Allen Yenior wrote in his opinion. "The First Amendment suffers no damage here by taking a back seat to the compelling interest in the morality of our children."

The decision will be appealed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Yeltsin returns to grave reviews

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN went back to work yesterday after his trip to King Hussein's funeral failed to convey the impression that he was an active world leader rather than a fading invalid.

He arrived at his Kremlin office amid a growing row over claims that the Russian Central Bank had funnelled \$50bn (£30bn) of hard-currency reserves over five years into a Jersey-based shell company, which managed and invested the assets.

Kremlin aides tried hard to give the impression that, despite leaving Jordan after only six hours, the President - recently stricken with a bleeding ulcer - was back in business. He was "in excellent condition", said a spokesman.

But pictures from Amman told a different story. They showed him looking pale and bloated, and walking with difficulty: a performance that did not impress the Russian press. "Yeltsin did not make it to the grave, but was very close to it," said *Moskovski Komsomolets*.

Some commentators saw his trip as an attempt to reassert his authority. "Power is slipping from his fingers and he decided to use possibly one of his last chances to rehabilitate himself politically," said *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*.

The attempt fell flat. Conflicting reports circulated over whether his brief trip had been interrupted for medical treatment. Jordanian officials said it had been; the Kremlin denied it. American officials in Amman spoke privately of their shock at his condition.

As he returned to his office, a scandal was building over financial allegations by Yuri Skuratov, the recently sacked prosecutor-general, which could put fresh strains on Moscow's relationship with its Western creditors.

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Students laughing as they taunted soldiers blocking their anti-government protest in Jakarta yesterday

AP

Anwar says Cabinet ran plot to oust him

IN ANOTHER day of dramatic court testimony, the Malaysian opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim, yesterday took the witness stand to accuse senior ministers of concocting rumours that he was a promiscuous homosexual.

In his second day as a witness in his own trial, Mr Anwar, the former deputy prime minister, claimed senior figures had conspired to discredit him by circulating anonymous letters accusing him of sodomy and adultery.

According to Mr Anwar, two high-ranking police officers told him that the Finance Minister, Daim Zaimuddin, and the Trade Minister, Megat Junid Ayob, were involved in the campaign, along with Aziz Shamsuddin, the political secretary to Malaysia's Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad.

"The police alerted me to the seriousness and the

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

dimension of these allegations and the political campaign against me," Mr Anwar said.

"They impressed upon me that the involvement of Tun Daim, Megat Junid and Dato Aziz Shamsuddin, who are known to be close associates and confidants of the Prime Minister, would certainly complicate the investigation. [The police] came up with this grand design of some political personalities out to finish me."

"I was surprised when told that the outfit to disseminate [the letters] employed at least 40 people to do so."

After seven years as a close friend and chosen successor to Dr Mahathir, Mr Anwar was sacked last September. A few weeks later he was charged with sodomy and abusing his ministerial power in order to cover his sexual transgressions.

He has always claimed that he was the victim of a political conspiracy, masterminded by Dr Mahathir, who he says feared him as a political challenger.

"My suspicion was that the Prime Minister didn't want his close associates to be implicated," he said. "Particularly Daim, who is widely known to have a phobia of courts."

During the 12 weeks of his trial, this version of events has been supported in a succession of own goals by prosecution witnesses, including police officers who admitted intimidating witnesses and being prepared to lie under oath. Yesterday, one of the men alleged to have been sodomised by Mr Anwar denied the charge, claiming he had been threatened, intimidated and drugged into making a confession. "I have never been sodomised by Anwar Ibrahim at any point," said Mior Abdul Razak in a sworn

document. "[My confession was] a fictitious version obtained with threat and pressure and drugs, which they made me take."

Last month, the charges against Mr Anwar were amended, removing from the prosecution the obligation to prove sexual misconduct.

Four charges of corruption remain, however, each carrying a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison and a 20,000 ringgit (£3,200) fine.

Mr Anwar's sacking provoked a fortnight of mass demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur, as crowds of supporters rallied to hear his speeches demanding political reform and the resignation of Dr Mahathir.

After his arrest they dwindled, but yesterday some 200 people demonstrated near the court, carrying placards reading "Conspiracy Revealed" and "Down, Down with Mahathir".

Second-rate Chinese team seeks premier slot

FOR CAO GUOJUN, the East is Red - or it would be if Manchester United would only buy a slice of his football club. Mr Cao, owner of the Liaoning football team in north-east China, is looking for a stock-market-quoted, English Premiership club to take a stake in his business, and the "Red Devils" are top of his wish-list of foreign devils he is hoping to negotiate with.

In recent years, Chinese football clubs have started selling their star players to European sides. But this is the first time a mainland team has said it wants to sell part of the whole club. "I think either an English or Italian team would be an attractive partner, but for me I would prefer an English one. I think the English marketisation of football is more mature," said Mr Cao.

"Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal - the big ones, we like them all. And of course we

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

lowers of English football, and games are regularly broadcast live on television.

"The clubs of the English Premier League are household names in China. So I think the merchandise of English clubs is sure to have a ready market in China," said Mr Cao.

In Fushun, the declining industrial city of 2.5m which is home to the Liaoning team, replica Manchester United strips are readily available in sports shops.

"Co-operation over players is an important reason for selling some of our company."

"We hope there can be more exchanges between Chinese and British players and coaches," said Mr Cao, who has already bought in a South Korean and a French player for this coming season.

The Premier League team Crystal Palace also had its eye on the mainland's potential last year when it signed up two players from the Chinese national team. Since then, Chinese newspapers and magazines have been full of articles about how Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai are enjoying life at Selhurst Park in south London.

Although football is very popular in China, its business side is relatively undeveloped, compared with other countries. Last week, for example, Pepsi bought itself sponsorship of the top league, henceforth to be known as the "Pepsi League", for a mere 90m yuan (£6.7m) - even less than the price of that Liaoning stake.

Wang Wei, chairman of China M&A Management, who is advising Liaoning, said that some English teams and one Italian team had shown interest, according to a Hong Kong accountancy firm which is acting as a middleman.

"The Chinese people will love the idea. It will also help the European team come to China. So many Chinese fans will know their name, a potential investor will get its name known in China," he said. It would also help the valuation of Liaoning when it seeks its hoped-for Chinese stockmarket listing sometime in the next couple of years.

Any English purchaser would also be doing a lot to cheer up the locals in a rather depressed part of China.

Fushun is one of China's north-eastern rustbelt cities where middle and large scale state enterprises have been closing by the dozen, throwing large numbers out of work.

Liaoning's success last season was one of the few bright spots on the horizon, and attendance at football matches seems to have weathered the city's economic decline. Mr Cao said most home games had gates of 25,000-30,000, even though at 30 yuan (£2.30) the tickets represent more than a day's average wage.



A Manchester United strip on sale in a Fushun shop

like the Premier League."

Mr Cao envisages selling a 30-40 per cent slice of the Liaoning club, which also runs a second team, a youth team and six football schools, and owns a stadium and other facilities.

He suggested a benchmark price for such a stake of 100m yuan (£7.5m).

Asked why on earth an English team would be interested in such a deal, he outlined a glorious future in which China's estimated 400m football fans would be snapping up the seasonal strips and other merchandise of the fortunate English team. Advertising, television rights, and the opportunity to swap promising players were all on the table, with the bonus that last season Liaoning earned promotion to China's top division.

"The English football industry needs to expand its market. The Chinese football market is indispensable for that expansion," he said.

But would he let an English team buy a controlling stake in Liaoning? "I would not agree on this very easily; we would have many conditions to discuss," said Mr Cao.

Chinese fans are avid fol-

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The O2 bar – a breath of fresh air (for £8 a session)

ARE YOU feeling lacklustre? Prone to allergies or headaches? Well here, at least according to the latest medical health-kick fad in the United States, is the reason: you are not getting enough oxygen.

"In prehistoric times, before we started deforesting the planet, 30 per cent of the air was oxygen. Now the average is around 21 per cent and in cities like Los Angeles it is as low as 12 to 14 per cent. That leads to disease and fatigue," explained John Wood, a vegan chef who considers himself an expert on the subject.

As indeed he should. Mr Wood is the general manager of a trendy new "oxygen bar" on Hollywood's Sunset Strip where, for \$15 (£8) a pop, customers are invited to insert a plastic tube up their nose and spend 20 minutes breathing a cocktail of "oxygen-rich" air, fruit flavourings and aromatherapy oils with names such as Clarity, Passion and Joy. To judge by the queues snaking round the corner at weekends, the concept is catching on.

Meanwhile, a company

called Rose Creek Health Products recently took out full-page advertisements in *USA Today* for a product called Vitamin O. O stands for oxygen, and the product – a liquid taken in drop form – claims to add the oxygen in your system that simple breathing cannot provide.

"Your bloodstream absorbs the Vitamin O and carries the pure oxygen straight to your cells and tissues," the advert explained. "There, it maximises your nutrients, purifies your bloodstream and eliminates toxins and poisons."

It sounds so simple. "There's not enough oxygen in the air in big cities, or in northern latitudes in wintertime, because there is no grass producing oxygen or leaves on the trees," said Rose Creek's president, Don Smith. His company has been selling 50,000 vials of Vitamin O per month, and he swears he has received testimonials from grateful customers who have enjoyed relief from conditions such as wheezing and achiness.

Richard DeAndrea, a Los Angeles doctor and part-owner

AMERICAN TIMES
LOS ANGELES

of the O2 bar, makes even more grandiose claims: "Studies have shown oxygen to be beneficial in fighting cancer, heart disease, chronic fatigue and migraine headaches. Oxygen may even slow the ageing process."

So is this a great medical breakthrough, or a load of baloney? According to Bob Park, a physics professor at the University of Maryland who specialises in debunking pseudoscience, the makers of Vitamin O blow their own gaffe when they admit in their adverts that their product contains "a liquid solution of sodium chloride and distilled water".

"They tell people exactly what they are buying," he said. "Ordinary salt water." No wonder the company claims Vitamin O is "so safe you can drop it in your eye".

Is it not possible that the water has been oxygen-enhanced? It is possible, acknowledges Professor Park,

but to extract the oxygen the consumer would need gills. "You get more oxygen from a single deep breath than from a daily dose of Vitamin O," he said.

Your correspondent was too tight-fisted to try Vitamin O, but he did venture to the O2 bar, where the oxygen is consumed on a long circular banquette adorned with brightly coloured cushions. Behind hangs an array of metal flexi-tubes which transport the oxygen down into flavoured aromatic water and up into your nose.

The whole thing looks and feels like an opium den, except that the merest trace of vice has been erased. O2 – which curiously is co-owned by the Hollywood bad boy Woody Harrelson – is so pure it serves no alcohol, and its restaurant offers only uncooked vegan food.

Oxygen bars did not start in California, but came here via Tokyo and Toronto. If there are not more of them in the US it is partly because of federal restrictions on natural gases in places of public entertainment.

So who frequents them? According to O2 staff members,

the oxygen treatment is popular not just with health freaks but also with high-spirited customers from the Red Rock bar next door, who come in to sober up and to stave off a hangover.

With the canula inserted up my nose and a steady stream of Clarity-flavoured oxygen whooshing into my system, I asked the manager, John Wood, whether the gas comes straight from a tank or is purified in house.

"It's not oxygen, it's oxygen-rich air," he explained, a little cagily. Street air is passed through a custom-built filter to make it purer. How much purer? He would not say, for fear that any claim might be challenged in court by some smarty-pants customer.

I walked out, with my companion, feeling slightly giddy, not unlike the sensation of having breathed in exhaust fumes. Within minutes, both of us felt oncoming headaches.

The bar's slogan is "Eat - Drink - Breathe - Love!" Fine sentiments, but I am not sure I will be rushing back for more.

ANDREW GUMBEL



Members of a club in Manhattan stocking up on oxygen
Greg Williams

Britain tries to defend HK court

FOR THE first time since the handover of Hong Kong, Britain has expressed criticism over a Chinese threat to the autonomy of the colony.

The intervention came after a burgeoning row over China's attempts to limit the jurisdiction of Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal. Yesterday, the British consulate in Hong Kong issued a statement saying that it would be "a matter of serious concern" if the court's powers were limited by China.

The agreement to set up the court was part of a series of deals negotiated in the run-up to the handover. Until now, Britain has maintained a resolutely upbeat stance on the progress of Chinese rule in its former colony. However, this optimistic stance is proving hard to maintain in the face of what is being described as the most serious constitutional crisis since the takeover.

Martin Lee, the leader of the Democratic Party, describes it as "an atomic bomb" lurking beneath Hong Kong's relationship with its new sovereign state.

Last week, Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal ruled on an interpretation of the Basic Law, or mini-constitution. This involved reversing a decision which barred Chinese mainland children born to a Hong Kong parent from having the right to remain in Hong Kong.

At first China said little about the ruling but in the past two days Peking has put into question the very independence of the Hong Kong legal system by insisting that the ruling be overturned and stating that the highest court in the former colony had no right even to make the ruling. "This is a very serious matter", said Zhao Qizheng, head of China's State Council information office.

China prepared the ground for its bombshell statement by releasing a number of negative commentaries by Chinese legal experts. Hong Kong officials had been hoping that these

statements did not amount to a statement of policy but they were followed by a barrage in the Chinese-controlled media.

The tone and ferocity of the media attacks have not been seen since China criticised the British-controlled regime which ended in July 1997.

Local lawyers and political groups have expressed alarm over the Chinese stance. Yash Ghai, a law professor, said that China was threatening to "completely undermine" the system of autonomy which China promised for Hong Kong's legal system. Emily Lau, a leader of the pro-democracy Frontier party, said: "I think this is the most serious crisis since the change of sovereignty."

This has left Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's head of government, in a very difficult position. He issued a carefully worded statement saying that his administration was giving "detailed consideration" to China's views and hoped the matter could be resolved in accordance with the "one country, two systems" principle which gives Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy.

The controversial judgment by the Court of Final Appeal could give rise to a flood of Chinese immigrants. Many of those who came illegally have started to camp outside the government offices, insisting their rights have been upheld by the courts. The police have arrested some on suspicion of overstaying their admission permits.

The situation is becoming increasingly fraught. Yesterday Peter Churchouse, the managing director of the investment house Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, said that unless the matter was resolved quickly and the matter of jurisdiction clarified, Hong Kong's role as an international financial centre could be "put in question".

Welcome to Marlboro Country.

ES CANCER

Warning
Nicotine

Marlboro Lights
6 mg Tar 0.5 mg Nicotine

Iranian spy chief quits after murders

PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD Khatami took a major step yesterday to extend his authority over Iran's powerful secret police, after a string of dissident murders threw his conservative rivals on the defensive.

Tehran state television reported Mr Khatami had officially accepted the resignation of the Intelligence Minister, Qorbanali Dorri Najafabadi, who was responsible for both internal security and foreign espionage. It did not name a successor, but press reports say it will be Ali Yunesi, chief of mil-

itary tribunals and head of a special commission formed by Mr Khatami to investigate the mysterious murders of nationalist politicians and secular intellectuals. Mr Yunesi, like the outgoing minister, is a Shia Muslim cleric.

Many key powers lie with the country's supreme clerical leader and not the president. By placing his own candidate at the head of the intelligence services, Mr Khatami could strengthen his position. (Reuters)

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Output declines throughout UK

EVERY REGION of the UK saw a decline in manufacturing orders in the four months to January, the Confederation of British Industry and Business Strategies reported yesterday. All regions also cut output and jobs. The biggest falls in output occurred in the West Midlands, Yorkshire, the Humber and South-west, and the biggest job cuts came in the North, North-west and West Midlands. However, one region, Northern Ireland, saw an improvement in business confidence, and elsewhere the decline in confidence was less rapid than in the previous survey.

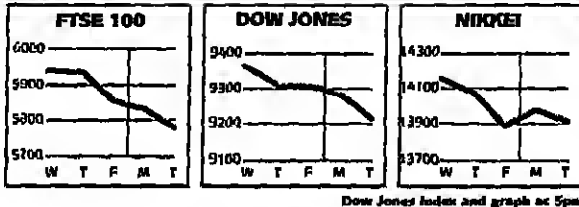
Scottish Media to buy Primesight

SCOTTISH MEDIA, the TV and newspapers group, is diversifying into outdoor advertising with a £35m agreed offer for Primesight, the poster advertising company. Scottish Media is offering 320p in cash for each share in Primesight, which has 5,700 six-sheet outdoor advertising panels, a 10 per cent market share. Shares in Scottish Media fell 7.5p to 830p while Primesight shares rose 31p to 316p.

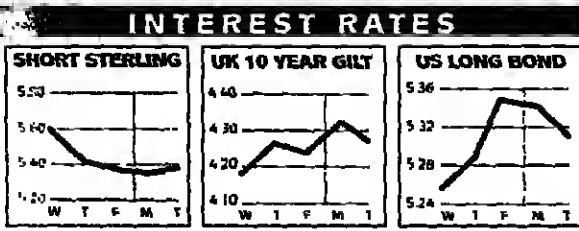
Emerging markets still risk crisis

THE RISK of a fresh financial crisis in emerging markets remains far higher than normal according to Goldman Sachs, the investment bank. In a new analysis it puts the probability of a crisis at nearly one in six, with the Czech Republic, Taiwan, Turkey and Venezuela among the countries most at risk. However, it foresees a no more than normal risk of crisis in China, which many analysts have feared will be the next market to fall victim to the continuing global turmoil. In addition, the 16 per cent probability of a currency crisis, while above the normal 9 per cent, is down from its dangerous peak at the end of 1998. This had been elevated by the risks in Brazil, which duly proved correct.

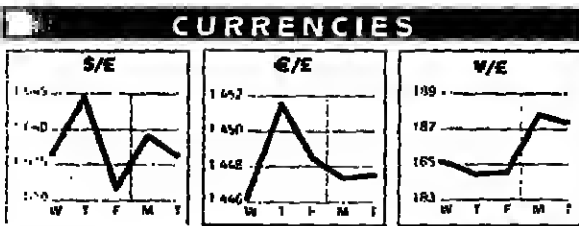
STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5779.90	-55.00	-0.94	6195.60	4599.20	2.77
FTSE 250	5172.50	-27.90	-0.54	5970.50	4247.60	3.20
FTSE 350	2759.10	-24.40	-0.88	2969.10	2310.40	2.84
FTSE All Share	2670.65	-22.20	-0.82	2866.52	2143.53	2.88
FTSE SmallCap	2222.00	4.90	0.22	2783.80	1834.40	3.64
FTSE Fledgling	1218.10	-0.60	-0.05	1517.10	1046.20	4.43
FTSE AIM	833.00	-3.30	-0.39	1145.90	761.30	1.30
FTSE Europe 100	5168.52	-56.83	-1.07	5970.27	4247.60	2.19
FTSE Europe 300	1173.02	-24.13	-2.02	1312.02	880.63	2.05
Dow Jones	9207.69	-80.58	-0.87	9647.96	7400.30	1.66
Nikkei	13902.66	-89.83	-0.64	15252.55	12787.90	1.05
Hong Kong	9244.49	104.89	1.15	11926.16	6944.79	3.80
Dax	4904.35	-122.87	-2.46	6217.83	3833.71	1.75
S&P 500	1228.20	-15.43	-1.24	1283.64	923.32	1.29
Nasdaq	2346.52	-35.75	-1.52	2922.44	1957.09	0.29
London 300	6485.30	-87.37	-1.33	7037.70	5220.90	1.61
Brazil Bovespa	8749.26	-75.01	-0.85	12339.14	4575.69	7.04
Belgium BEL20	3385.19	-60.98	-1.77	3713.21	2613.32	2.10
Amsterdam AEX	518.06	-10.18	-1.93	600.65	366.98	1.90
France CAC 40	4038.49	-115.53	-2.78	4404.94	2881.21	2.00
Milan MIB30	32336.00	-992.00	-2.98	39170.00	24175.00	1.26
Madrid IBS 35	9560.00	-148.80	-1.54	10989.80	6869.30	1.96
Wall Street	5168.52	-56.83	-1.07	5970.27	4247.60	1.55
S Korea KOSPI	523.38	-22.00	-4.03	651.95	277.37	0.07
Australia ASX	2890.70	-9.30	-0.32	2948.70	2386.70	3.18



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	5.51	5.02	5.31	2.15	4.28	1.82
US	5.00	4.63	5.18	0.50	4.98	0.76
Japan	0.46	0.38	0.48	0.34	1.10	0.12
Germany	3.11	4.41	3.04	0.75	3.79	1.31



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BA records £75m loss as price war takes its toll

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday reported its first loss in four years as the savage price war in the long-haul market and a decline in business passengers took their toll.

In the three months to the end of December BA recorded a loss of £75m - the first time it has failed to make a profit in the quarter since before privatisation in 1987. As part of a renewed cost-cutting drive, BA intends to prune back its network of 80 short-haul European routes this autumn. It also expects to identify a further £250m of efficiency gains by next year. The airline warned that the situation was not likely to improve in the short-term, however, prompting analysts to stick with forecasts that BA's full-year profits would fall by more than a half from £580m in 1997-98 to around £230m.

Chris Avery of Paribas has raised his forecast of fourth-quarter losses from £37m to £80m, which would leave BA with a second-half loss of £155m.

Despite the harsh trading conditions, Mr Ayling said investors could look beyond the short-term with confidence.

He said BA would achieve savings this year of £600m under its business efficiency plan - £100m ahead of target - while unit costs were down by 11 per cent on the previous year.

BA has also changed the makeup of its aircraft fleet to allow it to concentrate on more profitable sections of the market. Nearly half its fleet of long-haul aircraft are Boeing 777s, which have fewer seats for economy class passengers.

Yields - the amount that BA earns for each mile a passenger flies - fell by 11 per cent in the final three months of last year because of fare discounting and a fall in the number of passengers flying business class.

In December, business class traffic was down by nearly 3 per cent although it recovered partially in January when the decline was just over 1 per cent.

Despite an increase in staffing levels of 3,500, taking the BA workforce to 64,600, the wages bill actually fell by 7 per cent in the third quarter. BA was also helped by a 15 per cent fall in fuel charges.

The £75m loss compared with an £80m profit in the previous year, and included a one-off accounting charge of £117m to cover the cost of revaluing some yen denominated aircraft leases.

Without this, BA said it would have recorded a profit of £42m. But analysts said the figures had been flattered by a £50m credit because BA would not be paying out such a large profit share.

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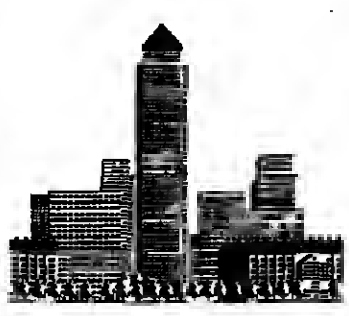
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et
Yeltsin
returns
to grave
reviews

Sunderland absentees rock the boat

RARELY has the usually sleepy world of regional brewing been so filled with the sound of gun shot. With the dust only just beginning to settle on the vitriolic two-way bid battle between Wolverhampton & Dudley and Marston, Thompson & Evershed, we now have a humdrum of a row at the Sunderland brewer, Vaux Group, which without ongoing chairman, chief executive or finance director, is now left rudderless, defenceless and wide open to a takeover bid.



OUTLOOK

Underlying this sudden burst of activity is a belated recognition of value wallowing in these traditional backwaters of British business, and an increased determination among shareholders to do something about realising it.

It was apparently without a trace of irony that Sir Paul Nicholson, the outgoing chairman, told analysts at his last results briefing that he hoped his successor would be as focused on shareholder value as he had been for the past 27 years. Shareholders, which include the *enormous* fund management, Phillips & Drew, would be forgiven for hoping otherwise, for Vaux shares have underperformed the rest of the stock market by a half dur-

ing that period. Even Sir Paul had begun to feel the winds of change, however, and reluctantly he had agreed to a partial breakup of the group through the sale of its two breweries and some pubs. This was a plan that threatened to sever his family's connection with brewing, which goes back generations, so it must have been a relief when his brother, Frank, popped up as the favoured bidder for these interests and the board granted him exclusive negotiating rights.

Unfortunately the new chief executive, Martin Grant, and his finance director, Neil Gossage, didn't agree. They think that to close the breweries, which incidentally would

have made Sir Paul's name mud in Sunderland, sell off the surplus assets and sign a new discounted beer supply deal with a national brewer, would yield more value. What's more they went behind the backs of the rest of the board in expressing their misgivings and outlining their alternative to major shareholders.

Their sackings raise two issues. First, is it ever justified for a chief executive to break ranks and ask shareholders to vote against the board's favoured strategy? Plainly it is when the board is doing something which is not regarded as in the best interests of investors in general. So the second question is whether the sale of these assets to the chairman's brother, given the alternatives, amounts to a validation of Mr Grant's disloyalty.

In usual circumstances, these questions would demand a thorough airing. As it is, the company has left itself so exposed to a hostile takeover bid, that we may not need to know the answers. The price being paid by Ledbrooke for Stakis is leading to a general reappraisal of the value of these hotel and pub businesses, and it may well be that analysts are right in pencilling in a breakup

value for Vaux of 350p a share and upwards.

Knotted ties

ROY BISHKO, the perennially upbeat South African who runs Tie Rack, hates it when people call his creation a niche retailer. This, he claims is an outrageous slur on his company, associating it with 1980s impositions like Sock Shop and Knickerbox. Instead he claims Tie Rack is "a specialist retailer" which happens to focus on "neckwear" and other associated items.

This is an interesting distinction. But even if he is right, Tie Rack has certainly established something of a niche for itself of late - that of issuing profit warnings. And though the company does not exactly have the field to itself at the moment, it is looking remarkably accomplished at it, having issued four in a year.

The shares rose a bit yesterday on the return of Nigel McGinley to the chief executive's chair, but the bald fact is that Tie Rack has lost 90 per cent of its value in the last two years. This is a destruction of shareholder value on a truly Olympian scale.

What has gone wrong has been well-chronicled. The company was hit by the strong pound and in particular the slump in Asian economies. Its overweight position in airports suffered with the collapse of business class travel. There were also buying mistakes, which left the group with unwanted stock.

Today the company has a market value of just £15m, even though the business contains £11m of cash. This must be tempting to financial buyers, though the 37 per cent stake held by Vadeo, an obscure Swiss investment trust, is obviously a deterrent. The other option is for Mr Bishko to take Tie Rack private himself. But if he tried that at current prices, the City would string him up - probably by using one of his own brightly coloured pieces of specialist neckwear.

Sterling poser

THE STABILITY of the pound against the euro and before that, its anchor currency, the Deutsche Mark, over the past six months has been remarkable, given that sterling has become a small boat tossed on turbulent seas between two super-

tanker currencies. Sadly, this stability has come a bit too early and at rather too high a level.

Since 1 January, sterling has traded in the 68p-70p to the euro range, when it needs to be closer to 73p-74p for the comfort of British industry. Moreover, this much-needed depreciation needs to happen early if the pound is to enjoy a couple of years of stability ahead of Britain joining the euro.

Given the fact that UK interest rates have fallen much faster than anybody thought likely six months ago, reflecting the slowdown in the economy, the pound-euro exchange rate might have been expected to weaken. True, euroland interest rates have fallen more than expected too, but its economy will probably still outpace the UK this year.

This puzzle has to be seen in the context of the bigger question about euro-dollar exchange rates. The dollar has stayed surprisingly weak against the yen when the US economy is pounding away. While the trade gap might point to an eventual and possibly dramatic decline in the dollar-yen rate, short-term considerations all seem to point the other way. With Japan still deep in

recession, its currency surely must decline before it climbs.

At the same time, the dollar has fared better against the euro than seemed likely ahead of the launch of the new currency, when it was thought there would be a general switching out of dollars as the euro establishes rival reserve currency status. This switching effect has obviously been postponed.

What does this mean for the pound, bobbing around in the wake of these big moves? There are two possible arguments for expecting or hoping sterling will weaken. It could fall against the euro for fundamental reasons - slower UK growth and lower interest rates - or because of the traditional sterling-dollar link, it might weaken against the euro if the dollar does.

Alternatively, sterling might turn out to have cast off from the US currency just a bit too early. With its line now attached to the euro instead, it would in these circumstances appreciate further, forcing the Government to negotiate entry into the single currency at a rate that is much too uncomfortable for UK industry. The historical precedent is not encouraging, so fingers crossed for a weaker pound.

Vaux sacks two directors in boardroom split

VAUX, the Sunderland brewers, yesterday sacked the chief executive Martin Grant and finance director Neil Gossage after a dramatic boardroom split over the duties of directors and the future of the company and its two breweries, in Sunderland and Sheffield.

The departure of the two directors after they lost the confidence of the board has put Vaux into takeover play, City sources said. It is understood that they opposed the majority decision last month to give a management buy-out team led by Paul Nicholson, a brother of the chairman Sir Paul Nicholson, a four-week exclusivity period to mount a £70m bid to buy the breweries and 350 under-performing pubs as a going concern.

Subsequently they are said to have broken the principle of boardroom unity and approached PDEM and Mercury Asset Management, which between them control 30 per cent of the shares. They appear to have lobbied for an alternative plan to close the breweries and the depot, with the loss of 600 jobs, build the buildings and sell the sites for redevelopment. At the same time the loan book used to finance the sale of

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

beer to the tied houses - the contract to supply beer to the hotels and the remaining pubs - would be sold to one of the major brewers and the proceeds reinvested in the hotels or returned to shareholders.

Neither Mr Grant nor Mr Gossage was available for comment. Mr Grant joined Vaux as chief executive from Allied Domeq last June on a salary of just under £200,000. Mr Gossage joined in 1995 and earned £112,000 last year. Both are on two-year contracts, and the question of any compensation is in the hands of legal advisers.

The formal decision to exit brewing and concentrate on the chain of 36 Swallow hotels, the 175 managed houses and the better half of the tenanted pub estate was taken last September by a committee of non-executive directors. It was accepted by the board and the chairman.

Yesterday's departures leave the boardroom plans on course. If the buy-out team can put an acceptable package to the board by 1 March, the proposals will go to an egm for approval.

The shares shed 3p to close at 273.5p yesterday.



Graham Roberts, Servisair chief executive, Jeremy Coates, finance director, and John Willis, chairman, yesterday

Servisair director may trump hostile Amey bid

THE BID battle for Servisair took a fresh twist yesterday after it emerged that Stephen Walls, one of the airport services company's directors, was considering trumping the £81.5m hostile offer from outsourcing group Amey.

Mr Walls, a former chairman of the troubled food producer Albert Fisher and of

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

paper group Wiggins, is understood to have received the backing of a venture capital group to mount a bid for Servisair, Europe's largest ground handling company.

News of an interest from Mr Walls, who has been a Servisair non-executive di-

rector since 1994, sparked an angry reaction from the Amey chief executive, Brian Staples.

He said that Mr Walls' involvement in the takeover battle was a matter for the Takeover Panel as he had access to confidential informa-

tion not available to other bidders. Mr Staples added that it would write to Servisair, asking it to clarify Mr Walls' position.

Servisair said that Mr Walls had not participated in any board decisions relating to the Amey bid.

Holocaust threat to Deutsche takeover

THE NEW York City comptroller, Alan Hevesi, last night stepped up pressure on Germany's Deutsche Bank over the Holocaust issue, with a warning that he is not ready to drop his threat to block its \$10bn takeover of Bankers Trust, writes Andrew Garfield.

Mr Hevesi, who is leading a group of state and local government finance officers who are opposed to the deal, said that he would not give the takeover his support until he had seen a written agreement settling all Holocaust-related claims against the bank.

He added that he was ordering officials involved in negotiations with the bank to report back within 30 days.

Jewish leaders are believed to be seeking at least \$2bn from Deutsche Bank after rejecting an earlier offer of a \$1.3bn umbrella fund which would settle claims against both Deutsche and other German companies.

Mr Hevesi has no formal powers to block the deal. However, his threat to boycott Swiss banks was instrumental in securing last year's \$1.25bn Holocaust settlement with UBS and Credit Suisse.



The world's fastest colour inkjet also

Food for thought. Not only does the new EPSON Stylus Color 900 inkjet beat all its rivals for quality, it beats them for speed. EPSON have pioneered Variable-Sized-Droplet Technology which actually increases print speed. Using different sized dots on the same page and line, the printer can create incredible detail with small dots while covering simple areas quickly with larger ones. It's all made possible by the unique 1440dpi EPSON Micro Piezo Crystal Printhead. Having created the world's smallest dot, EPSON have just made it even smaller. Our Ultra MicroDot is less than half the width of

EPSON. THERE'S NO COMPARISON. EPSON

Tie Rack stock glut prompts fourth warning

TIE RACK, the high street retailer, issued its fourth profits warning in little more than a year yesterday when it said pre-exceptional losses for its full financial year would be around £7.5m. Brokers had been expecting losses of £4m.

However, the shares rose 15p to 22.5p after Tie Rack said Nigel McGinley was returning as chief executive with immediate effect. Mr McGinley stepped down from the top job in October 1997 and has since been serving as a non-executive director.

His return follows a boardroom clear out which has seen the two joint managing directors leave last year. "I've got my chief executive back and I'm very pleased," said Roy Bishko, Tie Rack's chairman who founded the business in 1981.

The Rack blamed the latest warning on poor second-half

sales and difficult trading conditions in its major markets. After merchandising problems last year the stores were left with an excess of unwanted stock, which had to be offloaded at lower margins.

However, the group was upbeat about prospects saying it had cleared its overstocked position and had net cash of £11m.

With Tie Rack's market value only standing at £15m there have been rumours that Mr Bishko might seek to take the business private. "I have no such plans," he said. "We are just concentrating on running the business. We've got a good young team here and Nigel coming back means he will help bring it all together. I am very excited."

Mr Bishko said he would be "taking some of the clutter" out of Tie Rack's stores, which were crammed with too much stock. It is also adding more woven ties to complement its existing printed ranges.

Management has been strengthened in key areas including buying, merchandising and marketing and the benefits of these changes will begin to be seen in the coming financial year, Mr Bishko said.

Tie Rack has been closing underperforming stores. It now has 431 outlets worldwide, with 154 in the UK.

TIE RACK share price, pence

Year	Share Price (pence)
1997	240
1998	160
1999	22.5

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the average human hair and invisible to the naked eye. It's these tiny dots that give you the crisp, razor sharp detail. It's not often that the world's fastest is also the world's finest. The EPSON Stylus Color 900 four colour inkjet gives you the best of both worlds. A fact that our competitors may find hard to swallow. The EPSON Stylus Color 900 is available for around £369. We also have a network ready version, the EPSON Stylus Color 900N, with built-in Ethernet interface. For a print sample and more information on the EPSON colour inkjet range call 0800 220 546, fax 01442 227 271 or visit www.epson.co.uk

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Fund Report				
	12/31/00	12/31/01	% Chg	2002
124.40	131.40	-0.50	3.82	5.00
153.30	182.00	-0.50	3.82	5.00
114.40	110.00	-0.70	0.07	4.87

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

0.29	0.47	2.10	3.75	5.00
Caring Fund, March				
-dual.com				
142.82	142.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
133.97	132.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
153.46	123.46	-3.00	4.50	0.00
170.86	171.86	-1.00	1.00	0.00
160.28 158.00 0.00 1.25 0.00				
58.35 62.40 -4.25 1.00 5.00				
30.38 38.32 0.00 2.00 5.00				
Profit Share Ltd				
107.38	112.87	-4.24	0.44	0.40
161.00	163.63	6.16	0.00	1.56
58.15	57.00	-1.15	0.00	0.00
33.50	34.10	-0.10	0.00	1.50
57.26	56.27	-0.10	0.20	1.50
94.82	95.35	-0.10	1.20	0.00
Pine Ltd				
61.80	61.70	0.10	3.60	0.00
86.13	84.52	3.00	3.00	0.00
74.65	78.71	-4.04	1.25	0.00
148.05	155.90	-1.20	1.00	0.00

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Summertime blues return to depress Footsie

BLUE CHIPS are beginning to look anxious and tired. Footsie has fallen 233.1 points in the past five trading sessions, its longest losing run since last summer. The latest decline shaved 55 points from the index, leaving it at 5,779.9 - its lowest since just before Christmas. Only last week it was riding above 6,000.

The sudden retreat has occurred against a background of heavy trading with share turnover often topping 1 billion.

New York, lower during London hours, has helped undermine confidence, as has a nagging fear that last week's surprise half-a-point base rate cut indicated a degree of panic at the Monetary Policy Committee meeting and the nation's economic prospects were, therefore, rather worse than some experts anticipated.

Many of the hitherto high-flyers have suffered in the February fall. Colt Telecom lost a further 36.5p to 1.037p, against 1.341p earlier this year, and Orange fell 34p to 817p.

The newly-created engineering group BTR Siebe lost yesterday's Footsie retreat, losing 15.75p to 228.5p.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

RioTinto, at one time up 25p, settled for a 9p gain at 78p. Bilton, the South African Footsie constituent, firmed 4.5p to 130.5p after Paribas suggested a long-term valuation of 200p. It said: "There is substantially greater upside than RioTinto."

Lombard jumped 35p to 390p, helped by talk of corporate action, and Remun Mining rose 23.5p to 75.5p after reporting that it was examining various options about financing its Namibia zinc project.

Mid cap shares again failed to build on their recent progress with the index off 27.9 at 5,177.5. Still, the small cap index remained firm, up 4.9 to 2,220.

Takeover interest among the tiddlers was probably responsible. Stories swirled of corporate action at David S Smith, the packaging group, prompting a 9p gain to 124p in busy trading.

And Booker, the hard-pressed independent petrol retailer, formerly called Frost Group, was pumped up 6p to 45p in busy trading as stories swirled that the Kuwaiti-owned garage chain, QS, planned a takeover offer.

The shares, brushed by bid talk in the past, have come under increasing pressure as competition from the major oil groups hit profits.

Four years ago they touched 288.5p and even last summer traded at 136.5p.

assets could knock up to £50m from the retailer's reported profits. With the high street chain engaged in what seems to be a slow recovery, the investment house expects a dividend cut next year and suggests the shares could retest its 333.5p low.

MFI, the furniture chain, added 4p to 43p with CSFB suggesting a switch out of Carpetright, little changed at 291.5p. SG Securities' comments helped Harveys Farnsworth to achieve a 7p gain to 118.5p.

Utilities remained in demand with investors encouraged by their high dividend yields and general safe haven appearance. Thames Water rose 14p to 1,113p and United Utilities 13.5p to 803p. National Power firmed 8p to 600p and Scottish & Southern, helped by Charterhouse's support, 7.5p to 615p.

Lower interest rates may not be causing universal jubilation but builders are celebrating. Beazer, up 12p to 178.5p, and Barratt Developments, 13p to 288p, led the way. Long depressed properties also firmed on interest rate considerations. MEGPC rose 11.25p to 441.25p and British Land 23.5p to 503.5p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1,065bn
SEAQ TRADES: 71,010
GILT INDEX: 115.56 +0.13

Only 8 per cent perceived it as the safer airline out of the two and just one in nine said

pressed cash-and-carry chain that former Argos man Stuart Rose is trying to revitalise, improved 9.5p to 66p on stories of an imminent strike.

Last year Budgets and Somerfield looked at the struggling group but did not like what they found and walked away. Now, one story is that Tesco could be interested. Another name in the frame is Wal-Mart, the huge US retailer which has let it be known it intends to expand into Europe. There is also talk of a German strike.

Media group Primsight rose 31p to 316p as Scottish Media emerged with a 30p cash offer. Oil services group Abbot rose 31p to 179p after its merger talks with ProSafe, a Norwegian group, collapsed. A deal would have created a £500m oil services group. There have been market rumours that the two sides were having difficulty stitching together a deal and Abbot's shares have been volatile.

Flycraft & Arnold, the loss adjuster, slipped 5p to 65.5p as financial services group Fish

er International declared itself the possible bidder. Tetra, a computer group, was little changed at 277.5p after Lynx, off 6p at 208p, said it had made the approach.

Servisair, the aircraft support group, rose 4p to 218.5p. It continues to reject the 200p offer from Amey, the construction group. Indeed, it said director Stephen Walls, ex-Plessey, was attempting to maintain a counter offer.

Crown Eyeglass, up 15p to 92.5p, admitted a management buy out was under consideration.

Tobacco shares were the day's best performers, lit up by the High Court success of Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco. Gallaher, off on Monday on the loss of its Royal Warrant, was puffed 16.5p higher at 431p. Imps rose 24p to 711.5p and British American Tobacco 17.5p to 681p.

Marks & Spencer was little changed at 362.5p. BT Alex Brown remains cautious. It points out that the latest accounting changes covering the measurement of tangible

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Reuters chief warns of revenue downturn

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

REUTERS, the information giant, yesterday warned that this year's revenues would be hit by the financial turmoil in emerging markets and the rapid consolidation among the world's banks.

The chief executive Peter Job said economic crisis in Asia and Russia had caused a decline in orders for the company's news screens and trading systems in the last quarter of 1998.

He added that the fall would offset some of the price increases planned for 1999 and reduce sales. Mr Job said the gloomy economic environment and the prospect of further banking mergers were also casting a cloud over Reuters' near-term prospects.

He predicted revenue growth in 1999 would be below the 8 per cent rise recorded last year, when Reuters' turnover totalled a record £3,030m. His comments came as the information group reported the second consecutive drop in yearly profits, with 1998 earnings falling 7 per cent to £580m. The decrease in earnings caused a 33p fall in the shares to £33p, wiping almost £500m from Reuters' market value.

The figures were affected by the strong pound, which wiped some £12m off operating profit, and by a £78m shortfall in interest income caused by last year's £1.5bn share buyback.

By FRANCESCO GUERRERA

However, the numbers were boosted by a £28m gain from the sale of several Internet stocks held by Reuters' in-house investment fund.

Industry experts took Mr Job's bearish words in their stride. They pointed out that the chief executive is famous for his cautious statements and predicted Reuters would weather the adverse market conditions.

Brian Newman at Henderson Crosthwaite said that although demand in most of Asia and Russia was weak, sales in Japan and the US - two of Reuters' key markets - were encouraging.

"The bear case was that screen [sales] would go down, but at the moment they are incredibly resilient," he said.

Looking ahead, 1999 is shaping up as a year of two halves. In the first half, earnings will be depressed by a number of technical factors arising from last year's return of capital to shareholders and the absence of currency hedging.

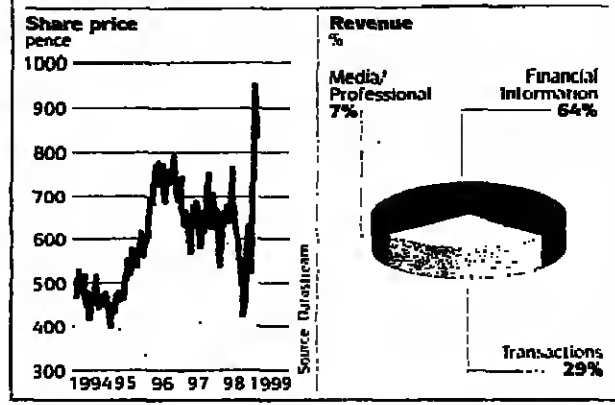
However, in the second half Reuters should benefit from a radical restructuring of its operations along product, rather than geographical lines. Cost savings should be limited to around £20m a year but the increased efficiency should boost operating performance. Millennium and euro expenditure has also peaked at around £40m in 1998 and is set to fall to around £14m in 1999, freeing up funds for investment in new products.

The expansion of the Internet. Reuters' Internet trading system, to the fast-growing European bond market should also boost sales and offset some of the decline in US revenues. On the negative side, the US court case on Reuters' alleged hacking of

REUTERS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £11.83bn, share price 833p (-33p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£bn)	2.3	2.7	2.91	2.89	3.03
Profit for the year (£m)	481.0	558.0	652.0	626.0	580.0
Earnings per share (p)	21.7	23.2	27.3	24.0	26.7
Dividends per share (p)	8.0	9.8	11.75	13.0	14.4



Share price pence

Source: Reuters

Revenue %

Media/Professional 7%

Financial Information 64%

Transactions 29%

Arch-rival Bloomberg's systems, could push the shares down.

But the investment decision comes down to the stock's valuation. The shares have had an incredible run since the start of the year. They are now on 26 times forward earnings forecasts at about £550-£700m - a 95 per cent premium to the market. They look a hold at these levels, but they should be bought if they fall further.

Amstrad bounces back into black

By NIGEL COPE

Associate City Editor

AMSTRAD, the consumer electronics group in which Alan Sugar controls a 28.9 per cent stake, bounced back into the black in the six months to December helped by a shift away from low margin products.

Although Tesco and other retailers have been selling Amstrad televisions and video recorders for as little as £99, profits in the half year totalled £1.1m, compared to a loss of £900,000 in the same period last year. Amstrad admitted that business with supermarkets is low margin but said the huge volumes involved made up for the relatively low mark-up.

The launch of set-top boxes for digital television in October is a key reason behind the sales boost of 47 per cent although

By NIGEL COPE

Associate City Editor

Amstrad has not disclosed the number of units sold.

Amstrad will increasingly have two strands to its business. It has the steady, lower growth consumer products operations selling traditional technology such as TVs and videos.

Added to this is the more focused product range developed by the group's in-house design team. This includes the contract with BSkyB and an agreement with Cable & Wireless to sell a range of C&W branded phones, largely for domestic use.

Writing to be launched are new products such as the Phone Book, an address book that can be plugged into a telephone and



Alan Sugar: No plans to take Amstrad private

which is expected to retail for £99. The success or otherwise of these new products means Amstrad shares are likely to be volatile as opinions will be

formed on the product lines' prospects in the next six months.

Indeed, last year Amstrad shares plunged as low as 27.5p fuelling rumours that Mr Sugar would move to take Amstrad private. This followed his decision to increase his stake in Virgin, the personal computer company, to 72 per cent. However, Amstrad shares have recovered to 50p, up 1.75p yesterday, and Martin Bland, finance director, said Mr Sugar has "no plans to take the business private".

On Beeson Gregory's full year forecast of £5m, the shares trade on a forward multiple of less than 10. The house broker is positive on the shares saying the upside lies in the new product launches. But it could be a bumpy ride.

More bad news on BA tailfins

A SURVEY by a Swiss marketing organisation has found that British Airways' new corporate branding, which includes controversial "ethnic"-painted tailfins, "communicates distrust".

An opinion poll by the Geneva-based Institut für Markentechnik claims that BA's £60m programme has failed to get its message across, at least to the Germans.

Three hundred passengers-by in Hamburg and Munich were interviewed and shown three BA tailfins and three from Cathay Pacific's range.

The survey found that two-thirds said the designs gave the impression of a "small national airline" and one guessed it was Zimbabwe's national carrier. The same proportion said it looked like a "relatively cheap" airline.

Only 8 per cent perceived it as the safer airline out of the two and just one in nine said

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

they could imagine the German president using the airline.

A BA spokeswoman said a sample of 300 German shoppers was not representative of either its customers or the world air-passenger market.

"You have to remember that the fins only form one part of the corporate identity so any research based on that one element is flawed before take off," she said.

Baroness Thatcher famously showed her contempt for the BA designs by using her handkerchief to cover the tail of a model plane.

BA unveiled the revamp two years ago and plans to have its 330-strong fleet re-branded in time for the millennium.



Only Concorde retains a "British" image based on the Union flag.

Late already

WHEN RAILWAY passengers are told their timetables are subject to alteration at short notice, they probably don't expect them to change before the trains have even been built.

But travellers awaiting the arrival of Richard Branson's tilting trains on Virgin's West Coast main line from London to Glasgow will be disappointed to learn that nine minutes have already been added to their journey.

The target journey time has always been billed as three hours, 50 minutes by 2005.

Until yesterday, that is, when the company unveiled details of its £1.25bn contract for 53 new tilting trains. The journey time was listed as three hours, 50 minutes.

The Virgin spokesman was unrepentant. "Our ambition has always been to get it under four hours to compete with the airlines. It may be that we will be able to achieve three hours and 50 minutes, but under four hours is the holy grail," he said.

Davos fever

TO OUTSIDERS the World Economic Forum, the annual summit held in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos, might seem little more than a free holiday for stressed-out executives.

In fact, it seems the jamboree can be dangerous for your health. The latest high-profile victim of the "Davos Disease" is Dr Heinrich von Pierer, the chief executive of Siemens.

Yesterday Dr von Pierer was supposed to be spelling out

BOC hit by 22% slide in turnover

By CLIFFORD GERMAN

TRADING CONDITIONS for BOC remain tough in the first quarter of the current financial year. Turnover was down 22 per cent and profit before tax fell 9 per cent to £35.5m.

Including joint ventures and associates, and excluding businesses that have been sold, turnover at the industrial gases group was still down 8 per cent and operating profit down 10 per cent to £104.4m.

The long-term restructuring and cost-saving programme that hammered last year's profits is on track to start contributing £50m to profit in the current year and £120m a year in the course, the chief executive Dr Henry Rosencrantz said yesterday.

Margins in the industrial gases division remain steady in spite of a drop in demand from the steel industry, and its operating profit was down just 1 per cent to £94.4m.

There are signs that the vacuum technology division which supplies the worldwide semi-conductor industries has turned the corner in spite of a slump in profits to just £1.6m.

The distribution business produced an operating profit of £7.9m, an improvement of 27 per cent.

The adverse impact of the strong pound is visibly fading, and should be cut to £5m if rates remain at their current level. But the market did not entirely share the company's confidence and the shares fell 67p to 789p.

The first quarter figures were below most forecasts and significantly below some. Even the optimists were disappointed at the severity of competition in the United States and the poor returns in vacuum technology and could see no real sign of a return to easier business conditions.

Forecasts for the current year have been downgraded from £415m to around £390m, and earnings of 54.5p, and £415m and 57.5p next year.

Even after the setback yesterday the shares are trading on 14-times future earnings, which looks high enough in current conditions.

the German electronics giant's future as a high-technology firm in the 21st century to a gathering of the world's media in Berlin.

When the time came for his speech, however, it turned out that he was still tucked up in bed back home in Munich.

"He caught a terrible flu in Davos and he still has a high fever," said Dr Volker Jung, the Siemens director who was drafted in to deliver his boss's vision.

He hurriedly went on to point out that Dr von Pierer's condition had nothing to do with the excellent ski slopes that surround Davos but was in fact the result of a punishing schedule of meetings at the World Economic Forum.

Furthermore, Dr Jung admitted he wasn't feeling too wonderful himself, although he managed to struggle through his official duties before his voice gave away.

Sounds like they are both in need of a good holiday.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES				
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	1.0000			
Australia	2.5275	2.5316	2.5305	2.5295
Austria	13.7510	13.7510	13.7510	13.7510
Belgium	36.3637	36.3637	36.3637	36.3637
Canada	56.3700	56.3700	56.3700	56.3700
Denmark	2.4836	2.4836	2.4836	2.4836
France	10.7682	10.7682	10.7682	10.7682
Germany	1.4471	1.4471	1.4471	1.4471
Italy	8.6031	8.6031	8.6031	8.6031
Japan	160.961	160.961	160.961	160.961
Netherlands	2.0361	2.0361	2.0361	2.0361
Portugal	200.480	200.480	200.480	200.480
Spain	166.371	166.371	166.371	166.371
Sweden	8.4664	8.4664	8.4664	8.4664
Switzerland	1.4334	1.4334	1.4334	1.4334

OTHER SPOT RATES				
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling
Argentina	1.6364	1.0000	Oman	0.6900
Brazil	3.1284	1.0000	Pakistan	82.832
China	13.545	8.2774	Philippines	64.390
Czech Rep	95.468	32.010	Poland	6.1314
Hong Kong	7.7571	3.4263	Russia	9.5959
India	385.36	235.00	South Korea	1924.2
Indonesia	14481.7	865.00	Taiwan	52.794
Jordan	0.7057	0.3037	Turkey	359.580
Kuwait	0.4970	0.2037	UAE	5.6114
Nigeria	142.20	85.900		6.0095

INTEREST RATES										
UK	Base	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	Repo/Auss	3.40%				
European Central Bank	Discount		Denmark		Japan	0.50%				
Australia	Prime	7.00%	US	3.25%	Switzerland					
O/N Facility	2.00%		Prime	7.75%	Discount	1.00%				
Repo	3.00%		Discount	4.50%	Lombard	3.13%				
Canada			Fed Funds	4.75%						
France	6.75%									
BOND YIELDS										
Australia	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Country	4.70	-0.00	4.66	-0.02	4.73	-0.05	4.96	-0.04	5.21	-0.03
Belgium	2.96	-0.00	2.89	-0.00	3.08	-0.00	3.52	-0.01	4.00	-0.05
Canada	4.75	-0.00	4.88	-0.01	4.87	-0.02	4.93	-0.03	5.05	-0.04
Denmark	3.11	-0.00	3.04	-0.01	2.97	-0.02	3.34	-0.04	3.79	-0.05
France	3.11	-0.00	2.91	0.08	3.04	0.01	3.28	-0.03	3.89	-0.06
Germany	3.11	-0.00	3.04	0.01	2.96	-0.03	3.26	-0.06	3.79	-0.06
Italy	2.98	-0.04	3.00	0.01	3.03	-0.03	3.52	-0.03	4.00	-0.05
Japan	0.28	-0.00	0.28	-0.01	0.53	-0.03	1.24	-0.13	2.10	-0.17
Netherlands	3.11	-0.00	3.04	0.01	3.05	-0.02	3.41	-0.04	3.90	-0.05
Spain	2.95	-0.00	2.90	-0.00	2.99	-0.03	3.44	-0.04	4.00	-0.05
Switzerland	3.61	-0.00	3.24	0.03	3.48	-0.03	3.84	-0.04	4.11	-0.04
UK	1.27	-0.01	1.52	-0.02	1.57	0.01	1.80	-0.01	2.47	-0.05
US	5.08	0.00	5.31	0.00	4.82	0.03	4.36	0.01	4.28	0.04
Yield	4.40	0.10	4.40	0.24	4.76	0.02	4.81	0.02	4.89	0.04

SPORT

'If I had my time again I wouldn't have got involved. But boxing's a drug. It's addictive, in a way that people don't understand'

Warren still pulling no punches



THE BRIAN VINER INTERVIEW

LAST FRIDAY afternoon, four men sat in animated conversation at a corner table in the lounge of London's Grosvenor House Hotel. One of them was the former world super-middleweight champion Steve Collins, who wants to come out of retirement. But the man doing most of the talking was Frank Warren, arguably the most successful promoter in the history of British boxing, responsible for 110 world title fights.

Warren was breaking it to Collins that the purse for his comeback fight will not be huge, reflecting the fact that he is no longer the champ. Their two associates listened intently. All four men were nattily dressed, yet looked decidedly out of place in a room full of elegant old women sipping Earl Grey. Earl Grey, like Prince Naseem Hamed, is not Frank Warren's cup of tea.

On Parkinson three weeks ago, the world featherweight champion Prince Naseem accused Warren of manipulating and exploiting him. This represented the knock-out blow to a relationship which was once as solid as any in boxing. And as a result, the famously litigious Warren has demanded an apology from both the BBC and Naseem, while saving most of his disdain for the champion's brother, Rishi, who has taken over as Naseem's right-hand man.

"When Naz was winning the world title, his brother was working as liaison officer between Sheffield City Council and the Yemeni community, living on a housing estate, driving a beat-up old car. I lived on a housing estate so I'm not knocking that. But the fact is that if his brother wasn't world champion, he'd still be living on that housing estate."

"They say I exploited and manipulated him. If that's so, there should be a queue of fighters asking me to do the same for them. I have always looked after my fighters. I've written seven-figure cheques out for Frank Bruno, Steve Collins, Nigel Benn, Naseem Hamed, and I'm not saying I haven't made money out of it, but they've made money with me. Now these two want it all. They don't want to pay anyone. They've taken on board a trainer they can pay peanuts to, who nobody's ever heard of. Naseem is due for a big fall. I don't think he will achieve what he should achieve."

Warren says all this very calmly. Clearly, though, the gloves are off. He claims that when Naseem wanted to marry a non-Muslim, the Hamed family was bitterly opposed. "But I knew they were in love. I knew she was a lovely person and that she'd be great for him. I told him all along, 'go where your heart is'. And God bless them, they're very happy."

Many informed observers of this



Talking telephone numbers: Promoter Frank Warren, who currently handles 60-or-so boxers, has made millionaires of many fighters, having staged more than 110 world title bouts. Peter Jay

acrimonious break-up feel that Warren is entitled to feel hurt. Last month in the High Court, another very public tiff with a former partner was finally settled with Warren agreeing to pay the American promoter Don King £7.5m. Ironically, they fell out largely because Warren felt King was not doing enough for Naseem's career.

Even Warren's enemies – one of whom, let's not forget, pulled on a mask one December night in 1989 and shot him a couple of times – might have to acknowledge that he nurtured Prince Naseem's career with care verging on devotion. Naseem has certainly acknowledged it. He once sent Warren a Christmas present in the form of a life-size bronze of himself, boldly inscribed: "To Frank Warren, the best promoter in the world, from Prince Naseem Hamed, the best boxer in the world." It is still in Warren's office. How come, I wonder, it does not now adorn a public lavatory? Warren smiles. "It's too heavy to carry."

In person, it is hard to see how 46-year-old Frank Warren can possibly inspire loathing and even fear, as has been known. He has an almost cherubic face, considerable

charm, a keen wit, and he talks engagingly about his heroes, who include the old Arsenal centre-forward Joe Baker, Muhammad Ali, Steve McQueen, Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael Owen and, above all, Frank Sinatra. In 1990, Warren promoted a Sinatra concert at the London Arena, and afterwards took him for dinner at an Italian restaurant. "He was so bloody down to earth. He sat there, still in his tux

notorious liberty-taker called Jack Spot." But Warren scoffs at those who try to link him with crime, and admits criminal intent in connection with only one man, the former editor of *The Sun*, who sanctioned a series of stories about his personal life. "I've never met Kelvin McKenzie, but if he walked in here now, I'd go over and knock him spark out. I wouldn't be able to stop myself."

As for those who try to link box-

ing grand to throw a fight, and then he gets down on his luck and goes to the tabloids... it's never happened."

Boxing, of course, has a different stigma to cope with. Warren has promoted several shows in which fighters sustained terrible and, in the case of Jim Murray, fatal injuries. He expresses due horror while quoting Murray's father to the effect that Murray acquired a status and dignity in boxing that he would not have

Elton John. It happens in the film business, in publishing, it's life. Fair enough, except that musicians and actors don't shoot their business partners. Warren has an immediate rejoinder: "I've heard of ice-skaters breaking each other's legs. Besides, the guy who shot me was mentally ill. He knows who did it, then? Yeah I know who did it. A lunatic. And I know he's not been having a lot of luck lately."

Some would say the same of Frank Warren. Before the Don King settlement, his assets were frozen for 14 months. Later this year he goes to court again, against the *Vatman*. His stable of fighters no longer includes Prince Naseem. Yet he is the eternal, irrepressible optimist, merrily inviting me to Newcastle to see Saturday's world championship super-middleweight fight between Joe Calzaghe and Robin Reid. "It should be terrific, a real tough fight," he says. "It won't be a walk-over for Joe."

Although he is no Naseem, the Welshman Calzaghe is a skilled and ferocious customer, and with Herbie Hide, probably the pick of Warren's 60-or-so fighters. Of the rest, Warren suggests five or six, including the heavyweight Danny Williams, who

will soon get shots at world titles. People have been wrong to write him off before, he says, and they are wrong to do so now. "When Keith Wallace got beat, they said I was out of the game. The same when Roy Gurns got beat, when Colin Jones got beat, when Bruno got beat, when Nigel Benn left. But I'm very much still in the game." This very week, he adds, he will sign a new three-year deal with Sky. The future is rosy.

Only once in high on two hours does his guard slip, and that's when I ask whether if he had his time again, he would do things differently. "Boxing is a drug," he says softly. "It's addictive, in a way that people outside the game don't understand. My wife might be watching *Prime Suspect* and I am rummaging around the satellite channels to find some fight in Germany. But if I had my time again, I would not have got involved. I would have gone to grammar school, gone to university, and maybe done something in the film business. I would have stayed away from boxing. I don't like a lot of the people in it. And it's very unforgiving. You do what you can for people, and very few of them are grateful."

This time Warren mentions no names, but several spring to mind.

'They say I exploited and manipulated Hamed. If that's so, there should be a queue of fighters asking me to do the same for them. I have always looked after my fighters... Naseem is due for a big fall'

from the show, with a bottle of Jack Daniels in front of him and a bucket of ice, wiping his face with a hot towel, and I asked him all the questions I'd always wanted to ask."

Like Francis Albert Sinatra, the fireman's son from Hoboken, Francis John Warren, the bookie's son from Islington, has long been reputed to have underworld connections. His Uncle Bob – "one of the handful of people I trust" – was convicted with "Mad" Frankie Fraser for slashing, as Warren loyally puts it, "a

ing with crime. Warren is again contemptuous. "Boxing is a real hard-nosed business, a cut-throat business, but it is not a crooked business. Look at the match-fixing allegations in cricket and football, look at jockeys throwing races, look at all the crap in the Olympic Games, the rigging that goes on just to get the event, never mind the drug-taking. Now look at boxing and name me one boxer who's been convicted of throwing a fight. It has never happened in this country. Imagine giving a fella 100

found in any other walk of life. It is a well-worn argument, and Warren is far too smart to endorse it absolutely. However, he bristles at my suggestion that boxing seems to throttle friendships, as in the case of Warren and Prince Naseem, Warren and Don King, Warren and Terry Marsh.

"It's not the nature of boxing, it's the nature of life. It happens in other sports. It happens in the music business, with Spandau Ballet falling out, with John Reid and

The Press gang nobbled Hoddle

Sir: Now that the hysteria over the England manager's departure has gone, it is worth getting the story straight before we end up actually believing that he was dismissed for the "official" reasons given: a) Glenn Hoddle would still be in his job if he had enjoyed a successful World Cup.

b) The disabled people he was alleged to have insulted and hurt were mere pawns in the bigger game designed to remove him from office.

c) Despite their repeated denials, it is clear that the lower elements of the media had Hoddle in their sights since the World Cup and were lying in wait for any error on his part.

d) Hoddle's lack of training in how to handle the media (his employers are to blame for that) combined with his very basic education led to that error – the clumsy wording about his beliefs he gave to the *Times* journalist and which was then exploited by others.

e) England has lost a promising young manager thanks to the

equivalent of mob rule. I hope those who pandered to the mob, having first fed it, can sleep soundly.
GERARD HUNT
Hemel Hempstead, Herts

Who's next?

Sir: As Hoddle leaves for another life, Arsène Wenger, perhaps the "best" candidate for the England manager's job, declares that the successor must be an Englishman. Where? Of those who have entered the frame:

Howard Wilkinson, the FA technical director, revolutionised the youth development programme in this country, but was a proponent of the long-ball game, a style that has caused England to fall 10 years behind Continental teams;

Kevin Keegan, a man who, when the going got tough, the tough got going;

Bryan Robson, a man whose

transfer policy was so poor, it relegated his team;

Terry Venables, a man whose most recent addition to his CV was the ruin of a Nationwide League club;

Roy Hodgson, a good manager, but how could he motivate an England team, when his own club captain was unmotivated?

Perhaps we should all be Irish, and change the nationality of Alex Ferguson and Arsène Wenger? I am sure they had an English grandmother...
GARY JACOB
St Catherine's College, Oxford

Why not Evans?

Sir: There has been so much debate about who the next England manager should be yet Roy Evans has never been linked with the job. I find it strange as he has had experience at a big club and more success than many of those

apparently in line for the job such as Bryan Robson, John Gregory or David Platt. He would certainly not be my first choice but he certainly deserves consideration.
STEVEN KILFEDDER
Golders Green, London NW2

Kelly's nonsense

Sir: Common sense is absent from Graham Kelly's article about Glenn Hoddle (3 February). He says he is disturbed "if the FA really sounded out senior members of the England squad". How else is the FA to know whether or not the team has finally given up on Hoddle, whose estimate of Eileen Drewery is that she is invaluable to the side.

Saying "Mrs Drewery did no harm" makes Kelly an ostrich. But for her and her ideas, Hoddle, in his recent and previous interviews, would have been focused on football – but then, she

allegedly cured his allegedly severe hamstring injury overnight.
M MEADMORE
London, W12

No gold rush

Sir: I read in your newspaper today (9 February) that Mark Goldberg, the Crystal Palace chairman, is to offer five-year season tickets to fans in an attempt to solve his financial problems. I am a Palace supporter and season ticket holder of many years' standing, and I fully intend to be at every home game in the next five years, whatever division we are playing in – but I will not be taking up Mr Goldberg's offer. I have no intention of jeopardising the club's long-term prosperity by allowing any of its future income to be diverted towards digging Mr Goldberg out of a hole of his own making.

Name and address supplied.

Let's stop this 'foreign' fudge

Sir: I write to complain at the pathetic reduction of national sports, into a free for all of "jack of all nations". The case of having so many Kiwis (and capped to boot) playing for both nations on Saturday in the Scotland-Wales Five Nations game is a case in point. Is there no pride left? In football, cricket, etc, the case is the same. We should stop this dilution of national teams, leaving the whole concept open to ridicule.

I would rather see a Welsh team made up of Welsh players lose than a team tagged together win. I for one won't continue watching *Welshpool* until, with all the best players persuaded to play for our nation. Let's remember the original concept, and limit eligibility to parents' origins, and particularly ban movement of any

player who has represented another nation.
Name and address supplied

Slight to Scots

Sir: Chris Hewitt's belittling of Scottish rugby (4 February) was undeserved bearing in mind Saturday's superb game at Murrayfield. Incidentally, Simon Turnbull is incorrect when saying Scotland's last clinching try in Paris was scored by Jim Telfer in 1969. Gavin Hastings scored a late winning try in 1995.
RICHARD HALL
Hemel Hempstead, Herts

Living in the past

Sir: Yet another Messiah, yet another false dawn. When will we Welsh realise that the glory years of the 1970s were a gift from the rugby gods and not a divine right?

We are a small nation with big ideas, well above our lowly station in world rugby. We should accept what we are and not torture ourselves with memories of perfection. Only then will we truly enjoy it all again.
S GUNNARSON
Penarth

One-dayers winning the ratings game

Australian research supports view that limited-overs cricket is building the sport's appeal among the next generation of fans. By Stephen Brenkley

ONE-DAY cricket has always got it in the neck for supplying only the quick thrill, the instant gratification. All denouement and no plot. Pulp but not literature. It has been that way for almost 30 years, since players first performed in the sort of match which was given a name designed to make it inferior: a "limited overs" international.

Last week at a formal luncheon in Sydney they gathered to celebrate it. Players from across the generations were there and if it was not exactly an act of worship, it was an admission that one-dayers are not only part of the game's present and future, they are also part of its heritage. They have helped Test matches to survive, but more than that, they have ensured they have changed.

This season in Australia the triangular one-day tournament has broken box-office records. If David Fouvy, the marketing manager of the Australian Cricket Board, had been James Cameron, the director of *Titanic*, he might have muttered something about being king of the world. He did not.

But matches have been sold out at Sydney three times, at Adelaide twice and at Melbourne once, where 82,299 people saw England play Australia. If the television figures have not quite gone through the stratosphere the hole in the ozone layer might have been nudged.

The latest figures show that one-day cricket internationals, on some nights, are the most watched of all programmes. On 26 January - Australia Day - 2,816,000 people watched Australia play England at Adelaide and two days earlier, 2,781,000 watched Australia play Sri Lanka. The Australian Open tennis did not come close.

Comparisons in this case are illuminating. At one point during the Adelaide match between the oldest enemies of the cricket station, Channel Nine, had 772,000 viewers and was followed in rapidly descending order by Channel Ten, with 245,000, Channel Seven (168,000) and SBS (36,000). Cricket is big and the channels will doubtless be checking on how big.

Fouvy is careful not to promote the immense following for the shorter game at the expense of the longer form, what he refers to as the purists' game. "Test cricket is an ongoing drama which can shift from session to session and day to day," he said. "The one-day game is different. It has evolved in its own way and it appeals to a separate audience."

"There are those who watch both forms but the one-day game appeals to the young. It attracts a female audience who go for the cricket but who go for an entertaining day out as well."

The solid evidence of those 22 years, of course, is that one-day cricket is not transient despite the sort of dreadful pitches which have been in evidence at Sydney in the Carlton & United Series this past week. While the ACB has made a conscious effort to promote the longer game since it re-assumed control of its own marketing under Fouvy five years ago (with some success), the board remains acutely aware of the power of the one-day dollar. There are dull one-dayers, as there have been in this tournament, but then there are dreary Tests. And then there

are the resplendent occasions. Graeme Hick has scored three beautifully paced centuries for England in the past month. Sanath Jayasuriya opened both barrels briefly for Sri Lanka and Adam Gilchrist has proved a murderous stroke player. His 154 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday did not gain him a place on the tour of the West Indies, but if the TV coverage is anything to go by his four monumental sixes placed him in the pantheon. Nor, in case the purists were wondering, should the incisive bowling of Glenn McGrath and Darren Gough and the parsimony of Adam Dale and Alan Mullally be forgotten. The sophistication of Test cricket - who needs it?

This season, for the first time in 17 years when the influence of Packer and World Series Cricket was still being felt (it had split the sport five years earlier), the season has been divided in two. A Test series of five matches has been followed by a one-day series of 15 qualifying matches involving three teams and a three-match final. Followers have been able to concentrate on one and then the other.

"Our analysis on this isn't complete yet and won't be for a few weeks," Fouvy said. "But my early indications, without committing myself, are good."

Like the marketing man he is, Fouvy refers to cricket as the core product. He knows enough, of course, to recognise that the kernel of this is a triumphant Australian side. He is delighted that the Test team has not only won but has almost changed the way of the five-day game. It has achieved, boring, draws - in favour of positive cricket.



Viewers and spectators have turned on to the exciting play of Adam Gilchrist and others this winter. Allsport

Perversely, the one-day game may have been the beneficiaries of this, too. Fouvy is swift to emphasise its tactical evolution. "Australia won the World Cup in 1987 but we would not have a chance of winning it with those tactics now. It has changed. New Zealand tried opening with off spin in 1992 with

some effect, then there was Sri Lanka, taking huge advantage of the first overs. We have got to the stage where people are objecting to changes in the game they know and love because it's breaking with tradition." He talks of a third way, be it Super Max or some other hybrid. And he promises that

Test matches will always survive. "Young women watch only the one-day game but the evidence is that they later turn to Test cricket." It is 28 years since the first limited-overs international was provoked by the vagaries of the Melbourne weather and the abandonment without a ball

bowled of a Test match. It is almost a quarter of a century since the first World Cup, 22 years since Packer's break-away transformed events forever. And three months till the sixth World Cup, in England. That will be the denouement. The exciting plot is unfolding now.

Loye lays England foundations

MAL LOYE mixed patience with sparkling strokeplay here yesterday to score an unbeaten century as England A built a solid platform on the opening day of the second unofficial Test against Zimbabwe A. The Northamptonshire batsman was 122 not out at stumps, having shared a second-wicket partnership worth the same amount with the opener Darren Maddy. He made 64, as the tourists closed on 256 for 4.

Earlier, Michael Vaughan, the England captain, went without scoring with the total on 12 and although Robert Key and Andrew Flintoff also missed out, Vikram Solanki joined Loye

to revive the innings with an unbeaten 36.

Loye, who slowed down somewhat after completing his hundred off 215 balls, is looking forward to advancing his score today. "I was thrilled when they took the new ball because it meant that it came on to the bat more," he said. "Darren Maddy batted superbly today and hopefully Vikram Solanki and I can get off to a good start tomorrow. There's still Graeme

Swann to come in and a few other lads so 500 is the total we've got to look for."

Vaughan, the Yorkshire opener, won the toss for the sixth time out of six and decided to take first use of a flat Queen's Club pitch. Although he departed quickly hitting Bryan Strang off the back foot to gully, Maddy and Loye made amends by steering the total to 78 for 1 by lunch.

After the break, Leicestershire's Maddy turned a ball from Whittall to Andy Bignall at short mid-wicket with the score on 134. Key, the Kent opener, appeared comfortable on his England A debut before he drove Strang to a waiting

Trevor Madondo at mid-on. Flintoff, the Lancashire all-rounder, soon followed when a ball from Whittall spun off his bat on to leg stump.

First day England won toss

ENGLAND A - First Innings

O L Maddy c Bignall b A R Whittall	64
M P Vaughan c A R Whittall b Strang	23
M R Loye not out	122
V S Solanki not out	36
A Flintoff b A R Whittall	2
V S Solanki not out	36
Extras (lbw not)	256
Total (for 4, 55 overs)	256
Falls: 1-12 2-134 3-178 4-189	
To bat: G P Swann, J C M W Read, O A Cress, J O Lewis, S J Harrison	
Bowling: Bignall 14-3-21-0; Strang 27-4-71-2; G J Whittall 9-3-25-4; A R Whittall 12-6-36-2; Maddy 21-7-35-0; Vipon 3-0-6-0	
ZIMBABWE A - First Innings	
T N Madondo c Bignall b A R Whittall	1
O P Vipon, J C P Ours, A R Whittall, B C Strang, A M Bignall, A G Huckle	
Umpires: G R Evans and E J Gilmour	

Gough's work is wasted

DESPITE A century by their captain Michael Gough, England Under-19s yesterday failed to build on the advantage they had gained in the second Test with New Zealand in Wellington.

England lost their last four wickets for only two runs as they were bowled out for 225, a first-innings lead of 115.

Although the tourists are still in the driving seat, they would have expected a much greater lead, having gone to lunch at 201 for 5.

Gough picked up where he left off at the end of the first day, batting with great maturity and determination. He brought up

his hundred with an on-driven four off Bruce Martin. He was later dropped at square leg on 116 but he did not add another run and was ninth out after a marathon 396-minute innings. His partnership with Dawson, who hit 45, put on 142 for the fifth wicket.

But the batsmen, Gough included, got bogged down after lunch when New Zealand took the new ball and only 24 runs were scored in 24 overs. The Kiwi openers survived the last session to finish on 55 without loss.

Quellmalz on the welcome mat

FATE HAS played a curious trick on Udo Quellmalz, Germany's world and Olympic champion, now chief coach of the British Judo Association. In his final international competition last year, he was summarily thrown on his back by none other than Danny Kingston, the former British European lightweight champion.

Not the most diplomatic gesture by Kingston, it must be said, for his future will be very much in the hands of Quellmalz. Despite some hitches, Kingston's successes have pinpointed him as the man most likely to win a medal at the World Championships in Birmingham in October and the Sydney Olympics - and thus give Quellmalz a key result British men's judo needs.

Though Quellmalz took on the best in the world, winning actually every major championship, he will find the British job of chief coach even tougher. Last year the men's and women's squads returned from the European team championships medal-less. And while the relatively new BJA chairman, Lesley-Anne Alexander, has been creating some order out of the post-Atlanta mess, there is clearly a long way to go.

"I know it will be difficult," said Quellmalz. "I know there is some mistrust between the players, the coaches and the BJA and I want to make a clear communication between us all." The greatest challenge Quellmalz faces is the time factor. It is eight months to the World Championships and it is unacceptable for the British team to finish without a medal on home ground. However, the British men have not won a world senior medal for over a decade, and face-saving has come from the women.

He will have some idea of the task at hand this weekend when Kate Howey and Danny Kingston lead the British team to the Tournoi de Paris, a strong event which sees most top countries, including Korea and Japan, competing.

Udo Quellmalz is 32, serious, likeable and straight-forward - a hero in his own land, even though he is a product of the East German sports system. He was selected at 14 for the elite sports school and won the European junior championships at 17 when fighting 20-year-olds.

But it was only when the Berlin Wall came down and he moved to the Western side that he began to make an impression at senior level. He became world champion in 1991 and

A rookie foreign coach has been given the task of putting British judo back on top. By Phillip Nickson

then again in 1995 and Olympic champion in 1996. In addition, Quellmalz graduated with a degree in sports science, and has five years' experience teaching sport in schools. So, it was inevitable that he should go into coaching.

But his appointment is nothing less than controversial. For a start, he has never held a full-time coaching appointment. And the great question is - can he transform a British squad system confused, even demoralised by failures and changes over the past few years? Or will he, as one German cynic has said, make all his mistakes in Britain and go back to Germany to take on the top German post? He smiles at this suggestion. "There is no time for me to make mistakes," he says.

Alexander has taken a big gamble in appointing him. She is acutely aware that Britain has, repeatedly, appointed successful players to be manager or chief coach without any preparation. It happened to Brian Jacks, and more recently, to Neil Adams. They were both elevated too quickly with little support, and with inevitable results. It also happened to Roy Innan, the successful



German coach Udo Quellmalz has the task of taking British judo into the new millennium. Peter Jay

Monty at Creek with a paddle

GOLF
BY ANDY FARRELL
in Dubai

IT HAD to happen sooner or later. In their endless quests to follow the sun and offer tournaments 50 weeks of the year, both the tennis and the golf tours have ended up in the same place at the same time. The Dubai Creek Golf and Yacht Club and the Dubai Tennis Stadium are just across the road from each other.

Yesterday it was possible to watch Colin Montgomerie complete nine holes of practice at the former prior to tomorrow's Desert Classic, and then catch Tim Henman's opening match in the Dubai Open. The only problem was negotiating what is the Middle Eastern equivalent of Spaghetti Junction that separates the two venues.

The leisure facilities, the ever busy roads and the increasingly vast hotels are all testament to the region's latest career: tourism. The creek and the souks which line its banks are why the city originally rose to prominence as a trading port.

The Creek was the second championship golf course to be built here. Unlike the Emirates club, where the tournament has been played since 1989 and which is entirely surrounded by desert, there was no problem growing grass with water coming into play on 11 holes, the creek itself on the 17th and 18th. It was the sand for the bunkers they had to import.

Last summer the course was closed for three months while the rough was overseeded and the results put the US Open, where caddies have been known to disappear in the jungle just off the fairways, into the shade. Such conditions naturally play into the hands of Montgomerie, even though this is his first event after a two-month break, and could be a nightmare for Seve Ballesteros.

"This is perhaps not the right course to start for anybody to get some confidence," said the defending champion. Jose Maria Olazabal, who has been working on his driving during the winter. Seve, unable to work on his game during a three-month break to rest his injury-torn body, found his way into a photograph in the local paper holding a tennis racket while giving Alex Corretja a putting lesson.

Montgomerie claims the only time he touched his clubs during the break was to change their grips but he dare not try and swing them for a racket. If Monty speeding around a court is unlikely then so is the name of the golf course he is designing here and which will be a future host of the tournament. In one of the flatter places on earth, it is called Emirates Hills.

"It's another busy year," Montgomerie said. "There is nothing special on the agenda. I just want to improve. That's my goal, as it is at the start of every season."

But the Scot is dogged by the question of when or if he is to win a major championship. "Hopefully, it is purely coincidental that I have not succeeded in the majors," he added. Of course, he has come close, notably in three US Opens and the 1995 USPGA. "It is a matter of being more fortunate. But my 76 in the second round at Congressional (in the '97 US Open) wasn't good enough. With the other three rounds, I'd have walked it."

For the past six years, once the majors have gone, Monty has found consolation in claiming the European No 1 title. Seventh heaven this year would be not having to salvage something from the last few months of the season. "If the four main goals, the majors, don't work out there is always something to play for. But the Order of Merit is not something I want to talk about in February. Ask me in September."

TODAY'S NUMBER

78,000

The pounds won by two women football fans from Whitby who correctly predicted nine results with a £10 stake.

The final bet - Charlton to beat Wimbledon - came up on Monday.

Grand National: Teeton may try to emulate Golden Miller in 1934 by attempting a Gold Cup and Aintree double

Mill well worth the weight

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

A WEEK, it appears, is a long time in racing. After the weights for the Grand National were unveiled yesterday, all the main protagonists in the ante-post betting avowed their intention to go for both the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Aintree marathon because of the time between the races.

There is the comfort zone of over three weeks between the Blue Riband and Liverpool this year, an extra seven days in which to galvanise tired horses, considering the span of recent seasons. It must be said, however, that three weeks is not a unique preparation time between the two and the great Golden Miller, back in 1934, remains the only horse to have completed the great winning double.

If that feat is to be replicated, the odds suggest Teeton Mill will be the likely hero. Among the others who might stamp their name in the record books are Double Thriller, Cyfor Malta, Suny Bay, Escartefigue.

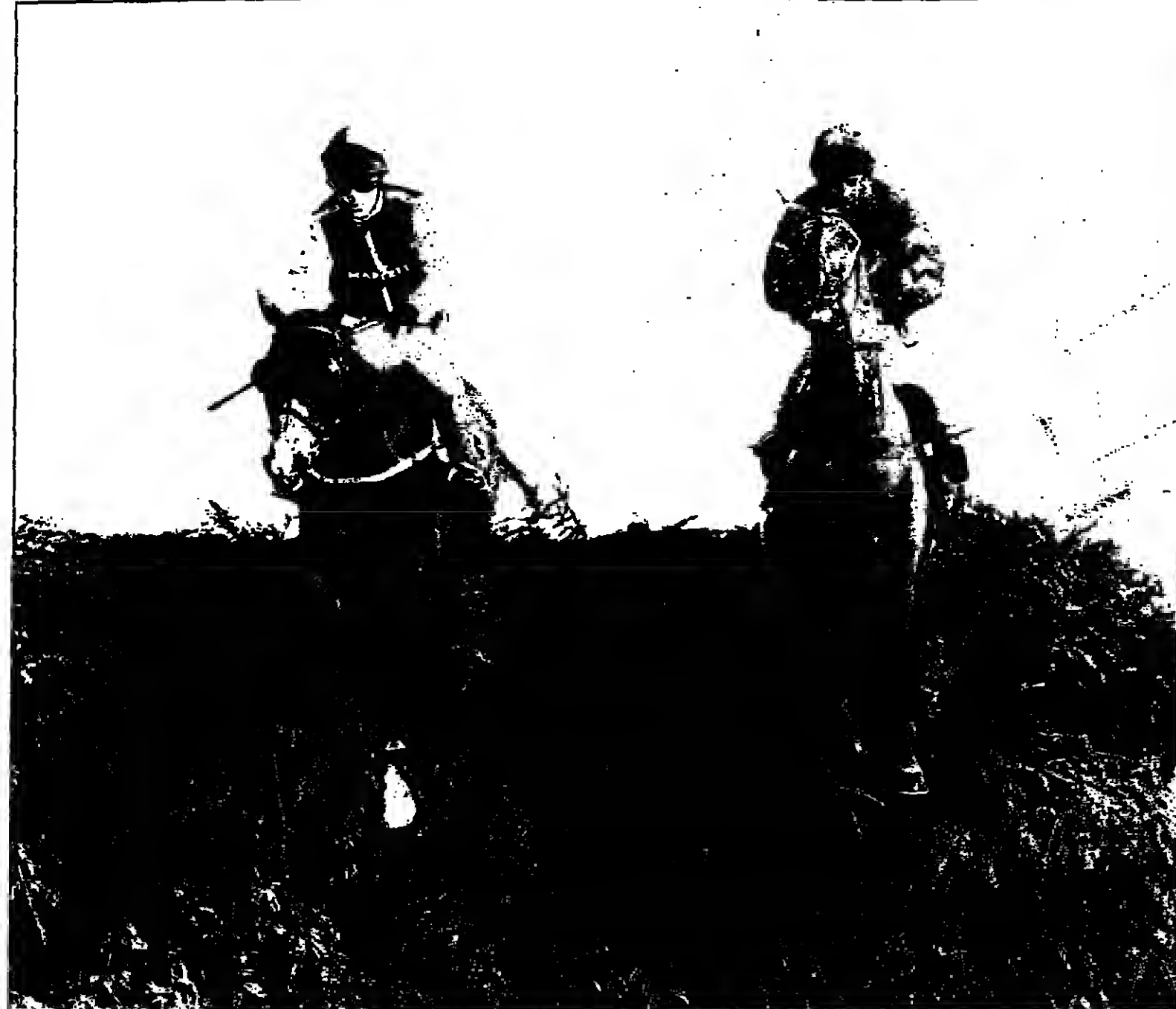
RICHARD EDMONDSON
Map: Lysandros
(Wolverhampton 4.10)
NB: Trina's Pet
(Wolverhampton 5.10)

General Wolfe, Addington Boy and Lord Gylene.

It is Venetia Williams' grey, though, who owns the premium credentials. The Hennessy Gold Cup and King George VI Chase winner has been quiet, recently, but the Ascot Chase a week on Saturday may display his talents once again.

Williams is just beginning to learn what it means to train a neon horse. Bulletins concerning Teeton Mill's condition appear almost daily in various media elements, and some of them have been quite elaborate following the gelding's recent muscle problem. He is said to have been suffering from azoturia, which may be worth a lot at Scrabble but counts for nothing else. Williams, the trainer rubbishes the notion that serious affliction has visited his horse.

"He's obviously of great interest, but it's slightly disappointing when you get people trying to put away their readers and producing misinfor-



Flying foes: Earth Summit (left) and Suny Bay, the winner and the runner up in last year's Grand National, may take each other on again

mation," she said yesterday. "When you're training horses, things happen all the time and you're constantly trying to be aware of that and acting accordingly. Stories have been made out of insignificant incidents."

"He goes for the Gold Cup first and foremost, and if all is well and we want to go for the Grand National, the option is there. Training him is quite terrifying. It's a situation you hope you will be in, but once

you're there it's quite frightening."

Williams also has the fancied General Wolfe (Gold Cup possible), Martin Pipe's 14-strong battalion is headed by Cyfor Malta (Gold Cup possible), and Paul Nicholls is hopeful about his ex-hunter Double Thriller (Gold Cup possible). "We are very happy with him since his win at Wincanton and it looks like he'll go back there for the Jim Ford (Chase) and then on to Cheltenham," the

trainer said of the last-named. A total of 21 leading entries for the 10 April race have been allocated a mark alien to their normal rating, which suggests the Aintree factor, which had become as relevant to modern thinking as the Krypton Factor, has returned. But then the Grand National is no ordinary contest. This year's minimum value of £420,000 for the 152nd National continues its standing as the richest and most eye-

catching jumps race in the world.

At this stage, there are four fancied greys (Suny Bay, Baronet and Senior El Bebutti), as well as Teeton Mill, who will have followers from the form books as well as the kitchen, and three former winners of the great race. The most recent of those, Earth Summit, is expected to emerge from a slump when confronted with the unique configuration, a remark which also applies to Lord Gyl-

lene, a rather pathetic sight when pulled up in Uttoxeter's Grand National trial recently.

"Unfortunately he didn't get much of a run last Saturday as he couldn't go on the (heavy) ground," Steve Brookshaw, the trainer, said. "But he's on a fair weight, a mark he was on after he won the National."

"Winning the race virtually changed my life. We almost doubled up in numbers at the yard because of that. It's a special race."

Double Thriller worthy of an early flutter

BY GREG WOOD

THE MOST interesting news when the wraps came off the Aintree weights yesterday was that the National is no longer just another handicap chase. In recent years, the notion of an Aintree factor in the handicapper's decisions had drifted out of fashion, along with the steel in the fences and the drop on the downsides of Bechers' Brook.

But that was before Phil Smith, the new man in charge of the weights, decided to slide underneath the Grand National's bonnet and start fiddling

with the cylinders and spark plugs.

No fewer than 14 of the first 20 horses in the list will carry a different burden to that which the official ratings would require. It may be only a pound or two here and there, but it could be enough to move thick wads of cash from one punter's pocket to another on the afternoon of 10 April.

Many backers will feel that finding the National winner is difficult enough on the morning

of the race, let alone two months in advance. Now that the weights are in the open, though, the process is exactly the same, the difference being that the odds on offer about the obvious challenger are a great deal more attractive.

At least half of the eventual National field will go to the tapes without the slightest chance of success. Perhaps a dozen more will be live outsiders at best.

The winner will probably be one of the first 10 names in the betting, and while the prices will

shrink before the race itself, the overall shape of the market has now been established.

The horse for the money in recent weeks, if the bookies are to be believed, has been Teeton Mill, which only goes to show that anyone who bets on the National before the weights are published should not be allowed out unaccompanied.

Red Rum was the last top weight to win, and that was in the days when the fences really sorted out the also-rans. Teeton Mill may win the Gold Cup next month, but even

then, the grey will surely struggle to give weight - perhaps as much as two stone - to such an impressive field.

A far better bet at this stage is Double Thriller, who beat Teeton Mill at Cheltenham less than a year ago but will receive more than a stone from the grey at Aintree.

"On what we know so far, he's got the best chance of our three," Paul Nicholls, his trainer, said yesterday. "We know that he's an exciting horse and we're very happy with him at home."

Double Thriller may be no more than a 12-1 chance, but a good run in the Gold Cup - and who knows, he might even win it - could bring the price down to 5-1 or less on the day.

For those looking for an outsider, though, the bet at this stage looks to be Hanakham, who won the Royal & Sun Alliance (Novices') Chase in 1997.

Martin Pipe, who trains the 10-year-old, has possibly been keeping him quiet so far this season so as to get a racing weight. At 33-1, he is a horse to have on your side.

BIG-RACE WEIGHTS

3.45 GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (CLASS A) £420,000 added 4m 4f (103 entries)

	C	H	L	S	T
21-11 TEETON MILL (105) M V Williams 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	115
22-11 SUNY BAY (105) S Shawcross 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
23-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
24-11 CYFOR MALTA (105) M P Jones 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
25-11 GENERAL WOLFE (105) M V Williams 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
26-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
27-11 GO BALLYMORE (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
28-11 GO BALLYMORE (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
29-11 LORD GYLENE (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
30-11 DOONIE HILL (105) W Daniels 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
31-11 CYFOR MALTA (105) M P Jones 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
32-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
33-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
34-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
35-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
36-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
37-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
38-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
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77-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
78-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
79-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
80-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
81-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
82-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
83-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
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89-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
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96-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
97-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
98-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
99-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101
100-11 EARTH SUMMIT (105) D Nicholson 10yo 12m	101	101	101	101	101

WOLVERHAMPTON

2.10 Nadisha (nb)	4.10 Lysandros
2.40 Garmock Valley	4.40 Dispolo Cian
3.10 LYCAN (nap)	5.10 West U There
3.40 Seikirk Rose	

GOING TO THE RACES
STALLS: 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-

International football: World's No 1 player finds peace at last after shrugging off the pressures of expectation

Zidane's plan is to set new goals

BY ADAM SZRETER

me of the modern game. He is the first to admit he is no Platini but now that he has achieved something even Platini never did, he feels entitled to relax and expect others to accept him for what he is.

"I am very happy because everyone has an aim in life and these honours are the best thing that could happen to me," he said.

"Football is a passion for me and my aim is to reach the highest level but, having done that, it is not a pressure, only a pleasure. I won't be losing any sleep over it but there will always be more to aim for - I'm too young to have no more goals in life."

'It meant a lot to see kids of all different colours with the French flag painted on their faces during the World Cup'

In Italy, of course, Zidane still has his critics. With Del Piero missing, Juventus are looking for a new leader, a high profile figure both on and off the pitch. That has never been Zidane's way, however. An essentially private, almost shy, individual, away from football he spends his time with his family in their home up in the hills that surround Turin.

As a player he is undemonstrative, but highly effective. "He is the brain of France," Pele has said of him. "You see the games they played without him [during the World Cup]. They had a problem. He is one of the controllers of the game - good ball control, good in possession."

His real name is Yazide Zidane, the son of Algerian immigrants, and he was brought up in the rough Castel-

lane neighbourhood of northern Marseille. His brother Farid still lives there, as well as his closest friends who keep "Zizou" abreast of all the results from his very first junior club. Zidane began his professional career with nearby Cannes after training at their footballing academy, and then moved on to Bordeaux and finally Juventus, scoring two late goals on his international debut in the meantime to earn the French a 2-2 draw with the Czech Republic.

However, going into the World Cup finals Zidane carried not only the footballing hopes of a nation but all the baggage that goes with his north African heritage in a country where, at times it seems, racial harmony

because I am always happy when I see all kinds of people kicking a ball together in the street," Zidane said yesterday, adding a dash of diplomacy to his mild Mediterranean manners. "It meant a lot to me, to see kids of all different colours with the French flag painted on their faces during the World Cup."

With so many of that team now playing in England, and captain Deschamps this week hinting that he would like to become the next - having lost his place in the Juventus side this season - the obvious question is whether Zidane himself will ever sign for an English club. "The Premiership is becoming more and more important, it is true, but I'm perfectly happy in Italy at the moment," he said. "That doesn't mean I'll never play in England, but Spain attracts me as well."

Of the French squad Roger Lemerre has assembled for the attempt at a first victory at Wembley, only Deschamps and Laurent Blanc were in the team when the countries last met there seven years ago. Alan Shearer, who scored, and Martin Keown were in the England side that won 2-0. "I've only ever seen Wembley on the television, and the grass always looks extraordinary," the 26-year-old Zidane said.

"I'm very happy to be here, I just wish I was in better form but the thing for me right now is to keep my head up. This is a friendly match and even though we want people to know it was not just luck that we won the World Cup, the most important thing is that the occasion is a pleasure for everybody. Maybe for England, with 80,000 people urging them on, it will not be such a pleasure but for us, even more than the result, the thing is to feel proud of ourselves."

Shearer comes to Hoddle's defence

BY GLENN MOORE

ALAN SHEARER may be the England captain but he said yesterday that he had not yet been included in the consultation process to determine Glenn Hoddle's successor as England coach, nor did he think he should be.

"It has nothing to do with me," the Newcastle United striker insisted. "My job is to play football - I am not a politician, I'm not a chief executive, I'm not paid to make those decisions."

The Football Association has intimated that senior international players will be among a whole range of people consulted over the post. They also intend to speak to managers, administrators and journalists.

Shearer, who was telephoned by David Davies, the acting chief executive, before Hoddle's departure, added that he thought the former coach should not have been forced out. "I was amazed at the reaction to what he was reported to have said. If he said the same in May, as he is supposed to have done, why was there not a reaction then? I feel sorry for everyone upset by his comments but I know he didn't mean to offend them."

The Newcastle striker, who was appointed captain by Hoddle, said he had spoken to the coach after his departure and "thanked him for what he had done for me". Hoddle had returned the compliment and said Shearer had rung most of the players to thank them for their efforts under him. "I've a lot of respect for him, I felt he was a good coach," added Shearer.

Howard Wilkinson, the man who has temporarily taken the reins for today's Wembley friendly with France, had "tried to make everyone feel at ease," Shearer said. "He's cracked a few jokes and done a good job."

The England captain added: "The senior players have had a few meetings with him, he's asked our opinion and told us he wants to use our experience on the pitch."



The multi-honoured Zinedine Zidane prepares for his first appearance at Wembley tonight David Ashdown

Dixon prepared to savour his 'second England debut'

LEE DIXON has been in football so long that Blondie were No 1 in the charts when he was a teenager at Burnley. Nothing, you would think, could surprise the Arsenal right-back as he approaches his 35th birthday next month. But, on Monday night, as he tried to help with his children's homework, came a phone call which left him dumbfounded.

Dixon and his son, Josh, were struggling over some maths, so the call came as a welcome respite. The voice on the line claimed he was John Gorman, assistant to the former England coach, Glenn Hoddle. Gorman said he was helping the interim manager, Howard Wilkinson, to prepare for tonight's friendly against France at Wembley and told the dubious defender that "the boss" wanted to speak to him.

"I thought it was one of my mates winding me up," Dixon said yesterday. "So I said to him: 'Go on then, put him on.' When it really was Howard Wilkinson it took my breath away. It was a complete shock."

Dixon's call-up comes five and a half years since he won the last of his 21 caps in Graham Taylor's final match in charge, against San Marino. He trained with his "new" colleagues at Bisham Abbey in the

The phone call that led to Arsenal's veteran full-back returning to the international arena tonight surprised him and confused his two children, too. By Phil Shaw

morning and by lunchtime he was in the starting line-up to face the world champions.

If the pace of events took even a much-decorated veteran by surprise, imagine how his children reacted. Josh is 11 and Olivia nine, so neither has any real memory of their father as an international player.

"When I came off the phone I was saying: 'I can't believe it,' Dixon explained. "They asked me who it was and there was a newspaper lying open showing a picture of Howard Wilkinson. I said: 'It was him', and my son looked at it and said: 'What would he want to phone you for?'"

"I told him he wanted dad to join up with the England squad. My daughter had a tear in her eye and said: 'Does that mean you're not going to play for Arsenal any more?'"

Seaman, Dixon, Adams, Keown... the first four names on Wilkinson's first England team-sheet are all from Highbury, with Nigel Winterburn also likely to be on the bench. "It'll be strange on the team coach, having all four of us defenders calling for

offside," said Dixon, shooting a self-mocking arm into the air in the infamous Arsenal style.

Joking aside, there are clear echoes of 1994, when the England team that beat Italy 3-2 in the "Battle of Highbury" contained seven Gunners. This time, however, there may also be three of Dixon's club-mates - Emmanuel Petit, Patrick

'We used to have a laugh about people saying we were too old but we're bored with it now'

Vieira and Nicolas Anelka - in the opposition ranks. Asked whether the presence of Petit and Vieira in the Double winners' midfield had played a part in prolonging his time with Arsenal and reviving his England career, Dixon said: "It does help if you've got a second defence in front of you, and Manu and Patrick have protected us magnificently over the

past two seasons. They're a formidable pairing."

The advent of another Frenchman, Arsène Wenger, has also contributed to the extraordinary longevity of the Arsenal back four (or five, as Dixon calls it in deference to Steve Bould). Far from being set in their ways, the fact they were all thirtysomethings when he arrived made them more receptive to his advice on, for example, diet and drinking.

"Arsène got a few players just at the right time. We were in a position where we thought: 'Let's listen to what he has to say because it might help us get another few years out of our careers.' A younger player might have been flippant and said: 'We're not changing.' We're living proof that looking after yourself does work."

"Personally, I've always been relatively clean living. Having kids helps - by 10 o'clock I've had it and I'm ready for bed. But it's not just a physical thing. You have to have the determination, the desire, to do it again and again and again. The Premiership is mentally demanding

because you've got to be up for it every week. The fans won't accept anything less."

Arsenal's run without conceding a goal stands at 5hr 24min, and Gianluca Vialdi recently compared their defence with the world-class Milan back four marshalled by Franco Baresi. Dixon acknowledges such praise as pleasing, yet insists that he no more drools over the goals-against column than listens to those who periodically suggest their time is up.

"We used to laugh about people saying we were too old," he said. "But that was about five years ago and we're bored with it now. You (the press) are going to get it right one year, so keep going."

While "Keep Going" might well serve as the Arsenal defenders' motto, Dixon had long since given up looking for his name in England squads or thinking: "I've got a chance if he gets injured." Tonight, therefore, will be like a second debut, nine years after his first, during Bobby Robson's reign.

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Previous Republic managers, as well as McCarthy, have encountered problems in securing the release of top players from the Premiership and Nationwide League for friendly games at this time of the year.

But although McCarthy has lost Liverpool's Steve Staunton, Blackburn's Jeff Kenna and Derby County's Rory Delap through injury, he has to make only two changes from the starting line-up in Belgrade - and one of those is Keane, who missed that 1-0 defeat with a damaged ankle.

McCarthy said: "I was still thinking of bringing in a few different faces but decided in the



Lee Dixon has every reason to smile as he approaches his 35th birthday and a 22nd cap David Ashdown

favoured by Hoddle. No mean exponent of the more physically punishing wing-back role, Dixon feels he is more effective as an orthodox full-back, albeit with a licence to attack.

And if, on one of his marauding runs, he comes up against Manu Petit, so much the better. When they were parting after last Saturday's victory at West Ham, Dixon, never

suspecting he would be involved, called to the dynamo from Dieppe: "See you on Thursday, after England have given you a good hiding."

Petit gave a Gallic shrug and said: "I don't care - we've won the World Cup." However friendly or fractious their Wembley reunion proves, for Dixon it may just beat another night of maths.

Keane turns his attention to Republic cause

ROBBIE KEANE, the Wolverhampton Wanderers striker, goes into tonight's Republic of Ireland friendly against Paraguay at Lansdowne Road with his club versus country dilemma resolved.

The 18-year-old Keane, who is viewed in Dublin as the Republic's answer to Michael Owen, has also been picked for the Irish Under-20s squad to play in the World Youth Cup finals in Nigeria in April. Wolves are furious that the talented 26m-rated player will miss a potentially crucial stage of the campaign.

However, the Football Association of Ireland, whose team finished third in the World

Youth Cup two years ago, are adamant that the Under-20s squad manager, Brian Kerr, must be allowed to call up his best players for the 1999 tournament which lasts for almost an entire month.

Keane said: "I'm just glad the decision has been taken out of my hands. It's been in the back of my mind for a long time and I didn't want to let anyone down. It's a big relief for me and now I can just concentrate on the job in hand, which is this match. It is important because we have the chance to get together before the Euro 2000 qualifier against Macedonia next month."

"Wolves are important, too,

and if I'm in Nigeria there's not a lot I can do to help the club in April, but there's still a long way to go in the League programme and while I'm away I'll just have to keep my fingers crossed for the lads at Molineux and wish them all the best."

Wolves, as well as Blackburn Rovers, Leeds United and Everton - who are also affected by having front-line players like Damien Duff, Stephen McPhail and Richard Dunne in the Irish youth squad - have all entered official pleas to have their young stars withdrawn. But the FAI chief executive, Bernard O'Byrne, yesterday confirmed his association's pol-

icy, which conflicts entirely with that of the England caretaker-coach and Football Association technical director, Howard Wilkinson, who has said that no regular Premier League player will be forced to travel to Nigeria with their squad.

Meanwhile, Keane and Mick McCarthy, the manager of the Republic's senior side, can focus on using tonight's friendly as preparation for the next Euro 2000 qualifier against Macedonia in Skopje on 27 March. "It is vital we had a match this month to fill the gap between the [Macedonia game and the] last one in Yugoslavia in November," said McCarthy.

Expectation
THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 10 February 1999

lan is Falcons fail goals to fly in land of Magpies

THERE WAS one shining piece of irony at Kingston Park last night as the last rites were administered to the bold Sir John Hall's pipe dream of creating an all-powerful sporting empire on the banks of the Tyne.

In the trophy cabinet at the home of the Newcastle Falcons stood tangible evidence that, in one respect at least, the 'ugly' club Sir John and his family firm fashioned after buying Newcastle Gosforth in September 1995 has succeeded where the cornerstone of their 'rumbling domain has conspicuously failed.

The Falcons may have become surplus to the sporting requirements of Sir John's heirs — his son, Douglas, and his young time associate, Freddie Shepherd — but they are still, technically, rulers of the English rugby union, as holders of the Allie's under-21 premiership. The last time Newcastle United, the Magpies of St James' Park, were perched on top of the English football tree was in 1927.

Sir John, though, committed a grave error of judgement in presuming that success would attract the fan base needed to finance his rugby dream team. Tyneside does have a history of ugly union excellence — Gosforth, the club from which the Falcons were formed, won the John Player Cup in 1976 and 1977 — but it has no tradition of popular support.

Crowds packed the 7,000-capacity Kingston Park as the Falcons won the title last season but that was just about the limit of Tyneside's interest in

Newcastle's tunnel vision has ruined Sir John Hall's dreams of building a sporting empire. By Simon Turnbull

the sport. And, more to the point, it was well short of the 10,000 break-even figure.

An experimental switch to Gateshead International Stadium earlier this season was abandoned after the financial embarrassment of a 12,000-capacity arena less than half full. And the "sold out" signs have not been needed since the Falcons returned to their home nest.

It was not what Sir John envisaged when he stood in the centre circle at St James' Park with Roh Andrew at his side in September 1993, and proclaimed: "The potential for rugby in the North-east is enormous. We can make this club one of the foremost in Europe."

The trouble was the majority of fans on Tyne viewed the sporting world in black and white. What features about the rugby club appeared in Newcastle United's match-day programme and monthly magazines the Toon Army aside it clear they did not want to pay to read about another sport.

Sir John's big mistake was believing he could build a sporting Barcelona on Tyne-side. Once he started to transform the fortunes of Newcastle United, with not a little help from Kevin Keegan, he took his eye off the ball and cast it towards the multi-sporting clubs he had visited and greatly admired on his European travels.

"Barcelona have 100,000 mem-

bers and Sporting Lisbon have 70,000," he said. "That's what we want. There will be a sense of belonging. People will cherish their membership cards."

What he neglected to consider was that Barcelona and Sporting Lisbon have a long tradition of sporting diversification, just as Tyne-side has a long tradition of popular sporting tunnel vision. Barcelona, Sir John failed to grasp, too, is an exception because its appeal transcends mere sporting boundaries.

It is, as the club motto states "more than a club". It is a focal point for Catalans, for a people long oppressed in a way the George "nation" of which Sir John spoke, never have.

"Over the next five years we will be adding more sports step by step," Sir John said at the time he took Andrew and the rugby club under the Magpies' wing. Less than four years later, they are being off-loaded, step by step.

The 1993-94 locking Newcastle Cobras were sold last summer and the basketballing Newcastle Eagles, like the Falcons, are up for sale now. Soon even the Magpies will have flown the Hall's nest.

Their proposed sale of Newcastle United to the television cable firm NTL will be the final act in the fall of an empire that never was. Even the trophy on show at Kingston Park will be gone.



Best of Tynes: (from left) For

City's A

MANCHESTER CITY'S new mystery backers will be an American investment firm worth £50bn.

The Boston-based United Asset Management Corporation are the backers behind talks to buy a 30 per cent stake in City. Their British arm is the Glasgow firm Murray Johnston, who have a stake in Aberdeen plus shares in Enic, who own part of Rangers. Representatives from UAM and Murray Johnston are close to finalising a package worth around £10m with more available for players, possibly as much as £20m.

Blackburn's manager, Brian



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former Newcastle manager Ke

America

BY ALAN NIXON

Kidd, is turning to one of the best prospects in Scotland – Burton O'Brien – under the noses of his old club Manchester United. Kidd hopes to make the St Mirren midfielder his fifth signing after talks yesterday.

United aim to reward Kidd's former boss, Alex Ferguson, for his success by making him the best-paid manager in Britain with a three-year deal worth a reported £5m. Ferguson is also organising a blockbuster testimonial next season which could raise as much as £5m to be split



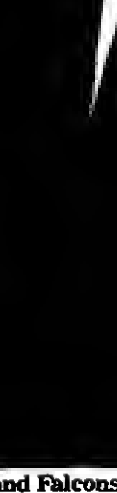
vin Keegan with Sir John Huxford, Newcastle's chairman.

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between the players and charities of his choice.

Newcastle's new owner Silvio Maric has laughed off two-year-old comments in which he is said to have insulted English women and food. The 34-year-old, signed from Croatia Zagreb last week, said his outburst, reported in a magazine in his country during the Champions' League qualifier between Newcastle and Zagreb, was not serious. "It was all a bit of a joke and should never have been in the paper," he said. "I wouldn't be moving to England if I really meant it, would I?"

Fifa has stepped into the row



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between Celtic and Maric's old side over Mark Viduka's transfer fee. Zagreb are furious that the Scottish champions forwarded only £900,000 for the Australian striker when they expected the £3m agreed at the time of the transfer.

Celtic now say they will split the remaining £2.1m with Viduka's previous club, Melbourne Knights, and the player Zagreb, already angry about the delay, have complained to Fifa, who are expected to make a ruling soon.

The former Tottenham and West Ham striker Ilic Dumitrescu has retired at the age



gby. **Rob Andrew North News**

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of 30, ending his career where it started in 1987, at Steaua Bucharest. The World Cup striker was capped 38 times by Romania.

The Danish striker Bo Hansena is to join Bolton from Brøndby for £1m, pending a medical. The 26-year-old, leading scorer for the Danish champions with 12 goals, has been a long-term target and impressed on a week's trial last month.

The former Dutch international Arie Haan is to take over PAOK Salonica. Haan is expected to sign an 18-month contract.



Best of Tynes: (from left) Former Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan with Sir John Hall and Falcons' director of rugby Rob Andrew *North News*

City's American dream investment

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Beaumont deals blow to Reform Group

"LANS BY the Rugby Football Union Reform Group to slap a vote of no confidence on the wickenham management board at a Special General Meeting next month may be coming along nicely - they are well on the way to securing the support of the required 100 member clubs - but other parts of the dissident camp's grand design are looking distinctly tatty. While the Reform Group are musing the name of Bill Beaumont, a former England Grand slam captain, as a possible member of a new "emergency board", the man himself wants to part of it. In fact, he would rather there were no SGM at all. "I've got a business to run

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

and apart from anything else, I haven't got the time to get involved any deeper in rugby administration," said Beaumont, the chairman of England's national playing committee, yesterday. "My personal view is that we should avoid an SGM and sort out whatever problems we may have from the inside. I am not a member of the Reform Group, I have no links with them. I've never attended one of their meetings and they have never contacted me."

All of which will be of considerable interest to clubs up

and down the country who have been circulated with Reform Group literature asking for SGM support, especially as one of the group's proposals concerns the immediate appointment of an emergency board comprising four named individuals: the RFU president Peter Trunkfield, the Reform Group president, Fran Cotton, the RFU chief executive, Francis Baron, and Beaumont. It is clear from Beaumont's stance that the only one of that quartet with any enthusiasm for yet another counter-revolution is Cotton, who quit the management board 10 months ago.

Nevertheless, conspiracy theorists who fear that the

Reform Group's latest campaign is a thinly-veiled attempt to manoeuvre Cotton's old ally, Cliff Brittle, back into a position of power can rest easy. The former RFU executive chairman, a central figure in English rugby's civil war until his removal from office last summer, has no intention of returning to the fray, according to the Reform Group secretary, Malcolm Ross. "Cliff does not want to be involved," Ross said. "He has retired from rugby administration with a clear conscience and while he is useful at some recent developments, he will not be back."

Aghast at the recent Five Nations fiasco, when England

were expelled from and reinstated to the competition in the space of 24 hours, and furious at what they consider to be the pro-club agenda being followed by Brian Baister, who seized the chairmanship from Brittle at last year's SGM, the Reform Group want to drive through a set of policies that would he pure anathema to the Premiership money men: the scrapping of the Mayfair Agreement currently underpinning the domestic game, the creation of an unspecified number of 'English super-teams' with direct access to the numbers of foreign players and a new attempt to contract internationals to the union rather than their clubs.

Meanwhile, Richmond have been docked two Premiership points for failing to fulfil last November's Premiership fixture with Harlequins. Richmond, denied use of their new *Madejski Stadium* venue because of an FA Cup tie involving Reading FC, were found to have unreasonably rejected approaches by Quins to play the game elsewhere. Quins wanted to go ahead with the match at either the Athletic Ground or the Stoop Memorial Ground.

In South Africa, 12 new white players were recruited and included in the country's four Super 12 squads for this season's tournament – an improvement on last year's contingent of two.

Higgins fluffs chance of maximum break

JOHN HIGGINS left the arena with *mixed feelings* yesterday after a first Wembley win since 1995 put him into the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters.

The world champion and current world No 1 defeated his former practice partner Alain Robidoux 6-1 but he missed an opportunity to write himself into Masters history by becoming only the second player in 25 years to compile a maximum break.

Compiling a 147 wins a sports car worth £20,000 and the highest-break prize of £18,000 but Higgins missed the 15th and final red.

SNOOKER

He paid the price for finishing too straight on the previous black, making his shot that much *tougher*. Higgins made a good attempt into the yellow pocket but the ball failed to drop.

Higgins' fourth-frame century was the high spot of an undistinguished second-round outing against his out-of-touch opponent.

World No 12 Robidoux, down to 45th on the provisional rankings, prevented a white-wash by making a colour clearance to snatch frame six on the black.

Norwegian favourites in the lead

SKIING

THE NORWEGIANS Kjetil Andre Aamodt and Lasse Kjus yesterday made their moves yesterday in the first run of the slalom, the men's combined event at the World Alpine Ski Championships at Vail, Colorado.

Aamodt and Kjus overtook Switzerland's Bruno Kernener, who led the downhill portion of the competition on Monday. The combined times of those two runs are added to the forthcoming second run of the slalom in order to determine the combined champion.

Aamodt, who trailed Kernener by just 0.08sec. in the downhill, fashioned a quick slalom event of 44.21 to move into overall first place with 1:57.73.

Kjus, who had stood third in only 0.14sec. behind Kernener, was timed in 44.55 in the first slalom run and was second overall at 1:58.13. He lost some ground on his team-mate, however, falling 0.40 behind Aamodt.

Aamodt and Kjus dominated the two combined events on the World Cup circuit this season and were the odds-on favorites coming into these championships.

Switzerland's Paul Accola, sixth after the downhill, moved to third with the second-fastest slalom run time of 44.15, and had a total time of 1:58.53.

Christian Mayer, of Austria, had the quickest slalom time of 3.78 and was in fourth place after 1:58.76.

ATHLETICS

Kipchoge Keino, the middle distance runner who won several Olympic and Commonwealth gold medals in the 1960s and 70s, is to be replaced by Charles Mukura as chairman of the National Olympic Committee of Kenya. Mukura resigned from the International Olympic Committee last year because of his role in the IOC bribery scandal. Mukura then quit his NOCK post after it became apparent that he was not a supporter of local sports organisations.

Wille Mtolo, the South African marathon runner, shot and wounded himself in the foot while paddling his canoe on the banks of one of the country for cattle rustlers. The wound will keep him from entering the South African marathon championship in Cape Town later this month.

BASKETBALL

NBA: Charlotte 94 Miami 91; Indiana 95 Cleveland 89; Detroit 106 Washington 103; Orlando 107 Boston 90; LA Lakers 80 San Antonio 75; Houston 81 Denver 80; Portland 95 Vancouver 76.

BIATHLON

The start of the 35th World Championships was postponed yesterday for the fourth consecutive day because of severe cold. The two sprint classes, 7.5km for women and the men's race, were postponed to Saturday. Yesterday morning, the temperature was at -36C at the coldest spots in Kontiokallio in eastern Finland, and the competition level is set at -20C.

BOXING

Herbie Hide has withdrawn from his World Bowling Organisation world heavyweight title defence against Colin Morris in Newcastle on Saturday, because he is suffering from a skin allergy. It is the second time the fight has fallen through, with Morris pulling out of some of his bouts last year, due to knee injuries.

Frank Maloney, the manager, has signed the Ulster fighters Brian Magee and David Lowry, who both competed in Kuala Lumpur, to his professional stable. Magee, a middleweight, was a bronze medalist in Malaysia.

CYCLING

The Danish rider Michael Claus Møller of the TVM team yesterday won the third leg of the Mallorca tour as Spain's José Luis Rebollo took the overall lead, covering the 142.6 kilometres in a time of 3h1

33min 28 sec. Finishing second with the same time as the Spaniard Francisco Cabello of the Keime Costa Blanca team. Rebollo of ONCE-Deutsche Bank came in with the pack 21 seconds later; in the descent of the Puig Mayor mountain, the last of three climbs and located 17 kilometers from the finish line, Cabello and Rebollo broke away from the former in the lead, but Moller won in a sprint finish.

DARTS

DUTCH OPEN (Darts) Men's semi-final: T Hunkley (Eng) beat R Barneveldt (Neth) 2-1; F Widdows (Eng) beat M King (Wales) 2-0. Women's semi-final: A2-Moosa's semi-finalist T Gulliver (Eng) beat J. Warrington (Eng) 2-0. Quarter-final: (Neth) beat S Colclough (Eng) 2-0. Final: Gulliver beat Hoensebar 3-2. Men's pairs final: T Hunkley and P. Whelan (Eng) beat A Jenkins and A Fordham (Eng) 3-1. Women's pairs final: T Gulliver and M. Warrington (Neth) and J. Eng beat M De Boer and K Overman (Neth) 3-0.

FOOTBALL

The Football League, the Premier League and Bass Breweries have agreed to allow Sky Television to show the Manchester United-Arsenal match live on television on Wednesday 17 February despite the fact that the game clashes with the satellite TV's original transmission of the England v France semi-final second leg between Leicester and Sunderland.

WOMEN'S LEADS RESULTS: FC Carlisle beat Thame City 6-0. Wimbledon (Pringle 57, Bachwell off 68). Women's Scottish Cup Third-round replay: Forth United versus Ross County v Clydebank. Forth United versus Ross County v Clydebank.

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND SIX

Cyprus vs San Marino (A.O.)
(at Makarios Stadium, Nicosia)

Malta v Yugoslavia (Z.O.)
(at National Stadium, St.Jo's)

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

England v Finland (A.O.)
(at Wembley Stadium)

Rep of Ireland v Paraguay
(at Lansdowne Road)

RUSSIAN CUP SECOND ROUND

THIRD ROUND REPLAY

Ross County v Clydebank

JUVENILE LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION: Tring Athletic & Rushmore v Boreham Wood second round: Harlow v Edgeware Ishtam League Cup second rounds Chesham v Hagsmith & Redbridge

LONDON LEAGUE CUP Second-round replays: Huddell v Enfield, Tring-Trompsley & Greenborough Trinity v Blyth.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern Division: Brackley v Baldock.

[illegible][illegible]

Tyson law

MIKE TYSON'S lawyers are considering whether to risk an appeal of his one-year sentence for assaulting two motorists.

Tyson, who spent his fourth full day in protective custody at Montgomery County, Maryland, jail, was sentenced last Friday for kicking one man and striking another after a traffic accident in August.

The former heavyweight champion remained in a private cell "for his own protection" and cannot ask for a bond hearing.

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BOXING

unless an appeal is filed, said prosecutor Douglas Gansler.

The sentence by District Court Judge Stephen Johnson could mean the end of the career of the 32-year-old boxer.

Tyson's lawyers must decide within 30 days of the sentencing whether his career would be further jeopardised by an appeal. A Circuit Court judge could then decide not to accept the no-contest plea and

n association with

Resort	Area open	Comment	Ski Lift
ANDORRA			
Soldeu.....100%		Great skiing	8
AUSTRIA			
Ellmau.....100%		Good snow	6
Niederau.....100%		Great skiing	9
BULGARIA			
Borovets.....100%		Much improved	4
CANADA			
Whistler.....100%		Firm, packed snow	25
FRANCE			
Le G. Bernard...55%		Gr at all levels	11
Val d'Isere.....90%		Gr at all levels	14
ITALY			
Bardonecchia 100%		Gr all areas	6
Livigno.....100%		Good conditions	5
NORWAY			
Gedö.....100%		Good cover	6
SCOTLAND			
Glenishee.....75%		Fresh snow	2
SWITZERLAND			
Sas de Fee.....90%		Great all over	6
UNITED STATES			
Sugar Bush.....80%		Packed, granular	3

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er appeal

order a trial by jury. If found guilty, Tyson would again be subject to Maryland sentencing guidelines that call for a jail term of three to seven years.

In addition, a conviction would worsen Tyson's standing in Indiana and Nevada. Indiana authorities must decide whether Tyson violated his probation for a 1992 rape conviction, and Nevada boxing authorities could revoke Tyson's boxing licence for the second time in two years.

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Zip codes	(cm) Up/	Last snow	Temp	Forecast
0 100	7.2	-10C	Unsettled	
0 90	4.2	0C	Variable	
0 170	4.2	-1C	Mixed	
5 65	4.2	-6	Changeable	
0 340	1.2	-1C	Brt spells	
0 240	8.2	-10C	Light snow	
0 340	8.2	-10C	Wild	
0 80	29.1	-5C	High winds	
8 150	28.1	-8C	Changeable	
0 60	26.1	2C	Changeable	
0 40	7.2	-6C	Snow, wind	
0 240	8.2	-5C	Changeable	
0 75	3.2	0C	Light snow	

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Resort	Area open	Comment	Slopes Low	(cm) Up	Last snow	Temp	Forecast
ANDORRA							
Soldeu.....100%		Great skiing	80	100	7.2	-10C	Unsettled
AUSTRIA							
Silbuds.....100%		Good snow	60	90	4.2	0C	Variable
Niederau.....100%		Great skiing	90	170	4.2	-1C	Mixed
BULGARIA							
Borovets.....100%		Much Improved	45	65	4.2	-5	Changeable
CANADA							
Whistler.....100%		Firm, packed snow	250	340	7.2	-1C	Brt spells
FRANCE							
Le G. Bernard.....95%		Gr at all levels	110	240	8.2	-10C	Light snow
Val d'Isere.....90%		Gr at all levels	140	340	8.2	-10C	Wid
ITALY							
Bardonecchia 100%		Gr all areas	60	80	29.1	-5C	High winds
Ugine.....100%		Good conditions	58	150	28.1	-8C	Changeable
NORWAY							
Geilo.....100%		Good cover	60	60	26.1	-2C	Changeable
SCOTLAND							
Glenesh.....75%		Fresh snow	20	40	7.2	-6C	Snow, wind
SWITZERLAND							
Saxs Fee.....90%		Great all over	60	240	8.2	-5C	Changeable
UNITED STATES							
Sugar Bush.....80%		Packed, granular	30	75	3.2	0C	Light snow

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SPORT

HENMAN'S WARNING SHOTS P25 • WARREN FIGHTS BACK P22

International football: Wilkinson trusts in experience and a change of tactics for the visit of the world champions

England search for new belief

BY GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

AS A SUCCESSION of England managers have found, usually to their cost, there is a lot more to the job than just winning matches. However, that remains the bottom line and this evening we shall discover if Howard Wilkinson, who has carried himself well in his week as caretaker England coach, can do that.

It will not be a fair test. Wilkinson has stepped in at a difficult time and will have had less than six hours on the training pitch to prepare for the most daunting of opponents, France, the world champions.

It will, nevertheless, give an indication as to the nature of the

ENGLAND MANAGERS: THEIR FIRST MATCH

WALTER WINTERBOTTOM (1946)
N Ireland (a) won 7-2 (H)

SIR ALF RAMSEY (1963)
France (a) lost 5-2 (ECU)

JOE MERECER (1974)
Wales (a) won 2-0 (H)

DON REVIE (1974)
Czechoslovakia (H) won 3-0 (ECU)

RON GREENWOOD (1977)
Switzerland (H) drew 0-0 (F)

BOBBY ROSSON (1982)
Denmark (a) drew 2-2 (ECU)

GRAHAM TAYLOR (1990)
Hungary (H) won 1-0 (F)

TERRY VENABLES (1994)
Denmark (H) won 1-0 (F)

GLENN HODDLE (1996)
Moldova (a) won 3-0 (WCO)

H: Home; I: International; WCO: World Cup Qualifier; ECU: European Championship Qualifier; F: Friendly; A: Away; EC: European Cup; ECQ: European Cup Qualifier.

bedding relationship between Wilkinson and his players. Whether he inspires them; whether he is on their wavelength.

He has made a good start, reverting to 4-4-2, with which most players are happier, especially the defence, and taking a series of common sense decisions. The call-up of Lee Dixon, who tonight starts his first international for five years, was one. So was a further request to Highbury for Nigel Winterburn, another in-form, solid professional.

The twice-capped 35-year-old left-back is included as cover in case Graeme Le Saux suffers a reaction to his foot injury



Michael Owen (far left) leads the England squad's regime of stretching exercises at Bisham Abbey yesterday, in preparation for tonight's meeting with France at Wembley

David Ashdown

after yesterday's training, but it raises the prospect of England a fielding back four-plus-goal-keeper drawn entirely from the Double-winners. Although the decision is forced by the absence of Gary Neville, Gareth Southgate, Sol Campbell and Andy Hinchcliffe, who was injured in training on Monday, it is surprising, given their collective form over the past decade, that it has not happened before.

In front of them Wilkinson has a Liverpool axis of Jamie Redknapp and Paul Ince – the Football Association having "forgotten" their previous ban on him – flanked by David Beckham and Darren Anderton. Alan Shearer, who will lead the line, said approvingly: "We should get some crosses in."

Michael Owen is expected to partner him, though Wilkinson is considering playing Robbie Fowler or Andy Cole instead.

It is a decent-looking team,

with a solid spine and a nice balance. It needs to be, for France will be formidable opponents. They are unbeaten under their new coach, Roger Lemerre, having followed draws in Austria and Iceland with an impressive win in Russia and scrappy ones over Andorra and Morocco. The challenge of playing England at Wembley should bring the best from them, especially with several English-based players involved.

They also have something to prove. France's four previous visits to Wembley have all ended in defeat without a French goal. Lemerre himself played in the 5-0 drubbing of 1969, while Shearer made a goalscoring debut in the last visit, a 2-0 England win in 1992.

England's added motivation is a confidence-building victory at Wembley. In five matches there last year they beat Portugal and the Czech Republic but drew with Saudi Arabia

and Bulgaria, and lost to Chile. Belief needs to be restored before next month's Euro 2000 qualifier at home to Poland and Wilkinson said: "Sometimes you can go into a friendly being prepared to sacrifice a result. This is not one of those times."

Shearer added: "Confidence is 25 to 30 per cent of performance and think how much confidence beating the world champions would give us."

It would also enhance Wilkinson's chances of being offered a job he is still unsure whether to covet. He was given his first taste yesterday of the juvenile abuse which goes with it when he woke to find *The Mirror* had

led the front and back pages with the suggestion that he had "Mad Hod Disease".

This followed an admittedly abstract but essentially light-hearted remark in Monday's press conference about wanting to view the job from a space capsule up above before deciding if he wanted it permanently.

When he saw himself pictured as a curious composite of Dr Spock and Scooby – he had made a *Star Trek* reference to being "beamed up" – he might have thought to himself, "I don't need all this." However, he was still cracking jokes yesterday, even offering a "head-in-hands" shot for the photographers after he inadvertently offered another verbal hostage to the tabloids by suggesting his position was akin to Cinderella awaiting the ball.

It will get worse if he stays and Wilkinson's sometimes rambling answers offer plenty of scope for such lampooning, but so far he has handled the media well. He can give the impression that media matters are largely a waste of his time but he did perk up when pressed on a football matter: the reasoning behind his preference for a flat back-four.

A long and lucid account followed, which can roughly be

summed up as follows: changes in the laws have led to the game speeding up and play being stretched, forcing teams to defend deeper. It has thus become increasingly difficult for wing-backs to "defend like [Claudio] Gentile and attack like [Dan] Petrescu". Simply, really, and practised by France, Brazil, Arsenal and Manchester United but not, until tonight, England.

Including a previous caretaker, Joe Mercer, Wilkinson is the 10th England manager. Only one of the previous nine, Sir Alf Ramsey, lost his first game in charge. His team was also playing France and they shipped five goals. He did not do too badly afterwards and, should France win tonight as form suggests, that thought should console Wilkinson and provide perspective. Not that it will in some quarters.

Zidane's plans: Dixon makes four; page 29

TONIGHT'S PROBABLE TEAMS AT WEMBLEY

LE SAUX Chelsea	BECKHAM Manchester United	BARROTT Ipswich Town	THURAM Paris
SEAMAN Arsenal	WRIGHT Liverpool	OWEN Liverpool	DESAILLY Olympique
APARISI Arsenal	SHEARER Newcastle United	AMBLER Arsenal	DESMARCS Juventus
REDKNAPP Liverpool	ANDERTON Tottenham Hotspur	WRIGHT Liverpool	DESMARCS Juventus
ANDERTON Tottenham Hotspur	ANDERTON Tottenham Hotspur	ANDERTON Tottenham Hotspur	ANDERTON Tottenham Hotspur

Newcastle hopeful despite Hall split

SIR JOHN HALL, the sporting tycoon who broke rugby wide open with one blow of his megaton wallet, was yesterday preparing to turn his back on the sport by off-loading his interest in Newcastle, the reigning Premiership champions. While his imminent departure did not pose any immediate threat to put them in the picture and offer reassurance, rumours circulated of a new sponsorship deal lucrative enough to secure the club's future. "The deal will ensure that the club can progress to the next level and meet the exciting challenge of European rugby," predicted David Campbell, director of the Newcastle Gosforth Shareholders' Association, which has a 24 per cent stake in the Falcons.

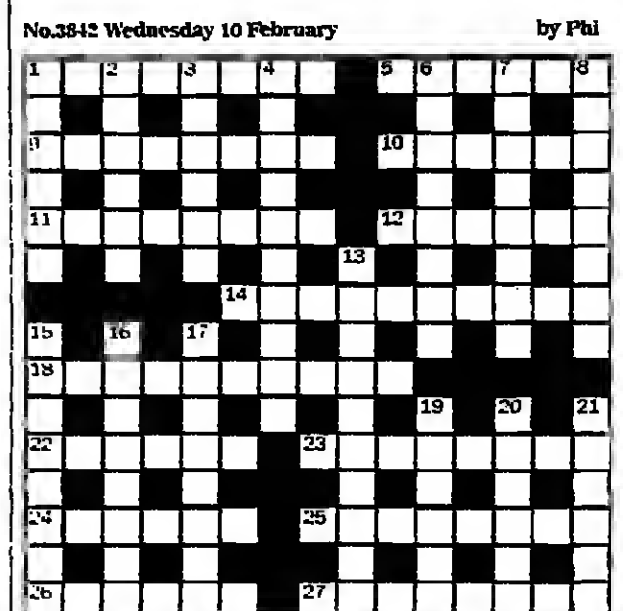
Hall bought his way into newly-professionalised rugby in 1995 by purchasing the old Newcastle Gosforth club and hiring Andrew, one of the biggest names in the English game, to turn it into a state-of-the-art outfit capable of winning honours inside five years. He paid Andrew a fortune for his trouble – a six-figure salary that was so far off the Richter Scale that it caused ructions throughout a sport still struggling to shake off the cobwebs of more than a century of amateurism – and followed up his initial investment by signing Vasilis Tsiganas, Dodi Wai, Tony Underwood and a string of other internationals, all on big money.

He took the view that he had also bought himself an influential voice among rugby's decision-makers and along with a small number of fellow millionaires who followed his example by pumping money into the English club scene, he proceeded to challenge the authority of the Rugby Football Union at every available opportunity. One of the prime movers behind the decision to boycott this season's European Cup, Hall's personal relations with many RFU leading lights, not least Fran Cotton and Cliff Brittle, were bitter in the extreme.

However, Hall found the economics of rugby far less appealing than its politics. For all their success in gaining almost immediate promotion to the first division and then winning the Premiership at their attempt, Newcastle could not capture the hearts and minds of the football-crazed locals and failed to build a meaningful audience. They began to ship money: the players had to wait for their title-winning bonuses until Pat Lam's departure to Northampton released some funds. Equally embarrassingly, an attempt to generate more interest by moving from rickety old Kingston Park to Gateshead International Stadium fell flat on its face.

For those arch-pessimists who claimed that professional club rugby would never make commercial sense, there was a certain satisfaction in seeing their public enemy number one do something similar.

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- A minor discussion - pure nonsense (4-4)
 - Sun's a very hot place - protection from heat needed (6)
 - Say girl is to be given a cat (8)
 - Cake consumed in France, mostly? (6)
 - Giving personal advice in the treatment of flesh and most of pet? (4-4)
 - I had American backing, to get into curious radioactive element (6)
 - Coward isn't grabbed by aggrieved father (5-5)
 - Smart one, captivated by link to office - not anyone with real influence (5-5)
 - Figure of speech en-

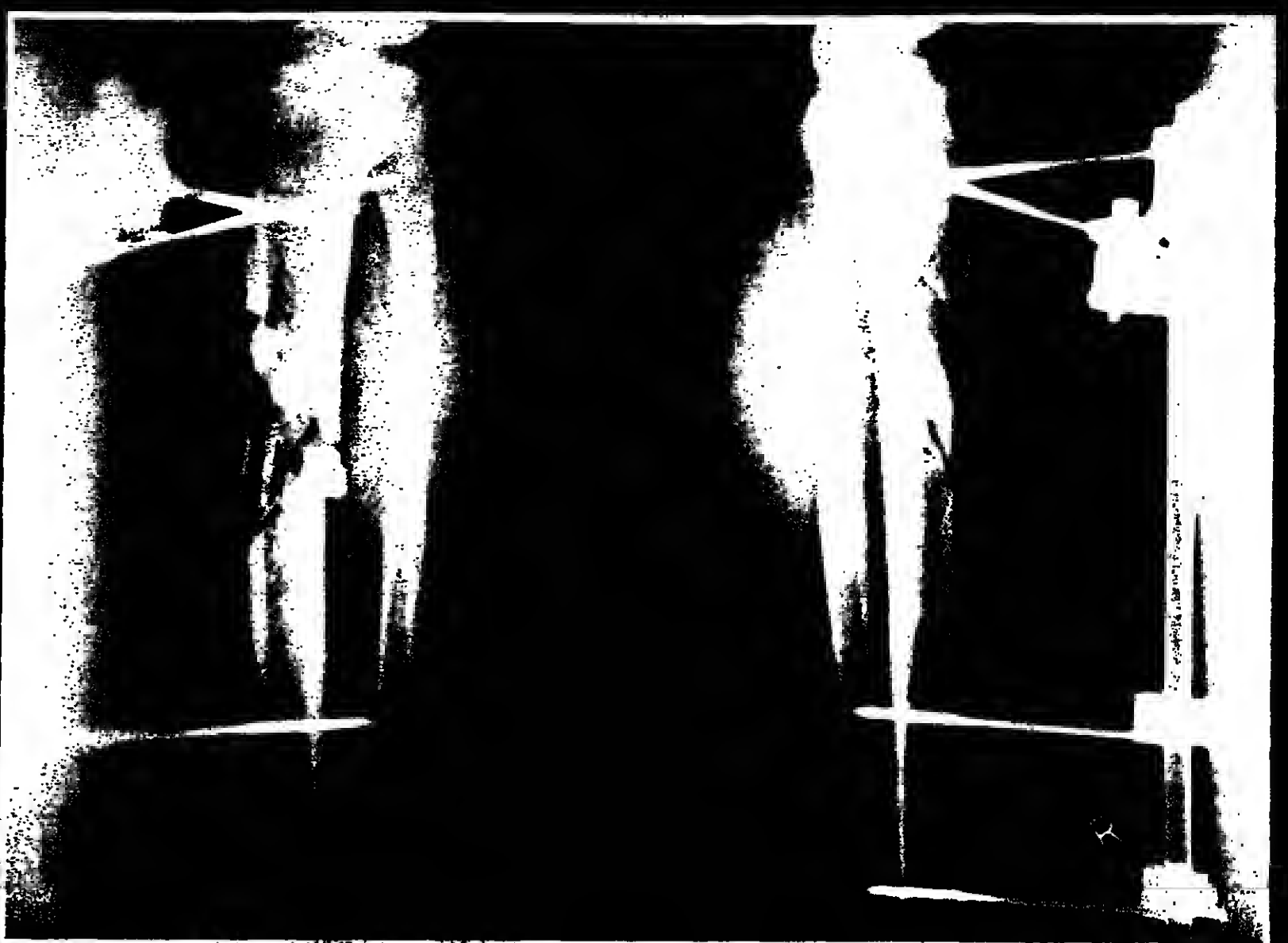
- thrilling University group of actors (6)
- Aberdonian given charge after crossing river without payment (4-4)
 - This effaces some blunder as erroneous (6)
 - Foot covering almost went too far, reaching middle of leg (8)
 - Fears the end of subsidised studies (6)
 - The ethical dilemma associated with hair colour? (4-4)

- DOWN
- Bold, endlessly bold, and surely heartless (6)
 - Item of jewellery showing black fish (6)
 - Not quite mad? That's

- very good! (6)
- Music station? See car-load I diverted (5-5)
 - Problem child's second to be taken in hand by teacher - excellent! (8)
 - Finishes annoyed, with no time for part of Mass (4-4)
 - Close companion shows the only way to end game, we hear (4-4)
 - In bed, like a sleeper? (10)
 - Metal repair? Old pews needing repair - about time! (4-4)
 - Capable of handling girlfriend with modern tastes? (2-2-4)
 - Memorial words to fellow trapped by action of medical machine? (4-4)
 - Level where you'll find mineral in a messy situation (6)
 - British hero's craft mostly damaged (6)
 - Information given to girl in Swiss city (6)

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



The weapon on the left is used to inflict the kind of injuries you see on the right. In parts of Northern Ireland such beatings are seen as the only useful instrument of justice. Who is behind this violence? And whose interests does it serve?

I couldn't see anything because of the blindfold, but I could hear them drumming the baseball bat against a wall behind me before they started hitting me. It was pretty scary, and then when the beating started the pain was terrible; it just went on and on. I was in hospital for two months." Jamesy Evans, 21, from the Short Strand area in east Belfast, stocky with a shock of yellow hair and a quick smile, had known for a while that his time was up. He had received repeated warnings from the paramilitaries about his joyriding and drug-dealing. But the call came at dawn, with a harsh, urgent tone.

The lad was approached one night by a group of "big fellas" at a night-club in nationalist west Belfast. They were, he says, members of the IRA. He was punched and kicked, blindfolded, dragged outside and taken to a house. After a short interrogation, he was taken outside again, made to lie face down and methodically smashed up and down his body with a baseball bat until one of his legs was broken. He was left to lie there until found by a passer-by.

Jamesy Evans was just one of the victims of systematic punishment shootings and beatings in Northern Ireland which threaten, perhaps as much as the impasse on arms decommissioning, to unravel the Good Friday peace agreement. Since the start of this year, there has been more than one beating a day, the highest daily figure for 10 years. At this rate, there will be a big increase on last year's 213 punishment attacks. Even though there are about equal numbers on either side of the sectarian divide, the issue has been seized upon by Unionist politicians in Ulster and Conservatives in Westminster as a breach of the accord by the paramilitaries, and a reason to exclude them from the planned new Northern Ireland government.

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, is under increasing pressure as critics accuse the Government of failing to act. Her contention is that there is no direct evidence to link the beatings and shootings to the leaderships of the IRA and the principal loyalist groups, the Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Defence Association. Sir Ronnie Finnan, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, has stated that these groups are involved in the attacks. But while the faces and names of the victims are be-

coming familiar through the media, few if any of those responsible are being charged.

Pictures of 34-year-old Andrew Feden crying as he crawled about on his front-room floor have been seen repeatedly on TV news, showing the bloody stumps where his legs were amputated by a UVF shotgun. He says he was caught up in a row between a group of his friends and members of the UVF over a woman. He was abducted and blindfolded, had his hands tied behind his back, was beaten unconscious and then shot.

He sobs: "I will never walk again, but it's not being able to do things with my three kids that really breaks my heart. I can't take them to the park or to school or anywhere."

His wife Linda has met members of the UVF who, she says, now accept that her husband was not involved in the argument. "What good is that after he has been left with half a body?" she says. "We haven't got a life now - I even have to lift him on and off the toilet." Mr Feden adds: "Are we to become a nation of cripples?"

Who sanctions the beatings? The political wings of the major paramilitary groups - the IRA,

who want to complain about "antisocial behaviour" - that is, joyriding and drug-dealing, thefts and sexual offences.

People say that junior members of the political parties will adjudicate on the level of punitive action, and may even be present when it is carried out. One local politician is nicknamed after his distinctive footwear because that is what victims see when they are lying on the ground, about to receive punishment.

Many people in these areas approve of quick, rough justice. A community worker explained: "You get very strong community leaders in the republican areas who would see themselves as arbiters. But once it comes to the question of beatings, they articulate the same arguments as Conservative ministers. They say, 'Unless you punish them they think they'll get away with it.'"

Often the punishment is meted out by appointment, with parents taking the victims to a rendezvous and collecting them, battered and bleeding, afterwards. Gerry (not his real name) is a nationalist who has taken part in punishment

beatings in the past and now lives outside Belfast. He told us: "Despite what you may think in England, there aren't bunches of sadists going around beating up people just for the hell of it. In fact it is very difficult to get the men to carry these out, to hit someone with a baseball bat, or a big heavy piece of wood or hammer, until the bone shatters - especially if it is a kid."

"You are aware that it may go wrong, that the damage you cause may be more than needed... And it does not work - you see the same kids being done over and over again. You are taking part in something which is brutalising you and not helping them, so what's the point?"

What is behind the increase in the number of punishment beatings? Sources say this systematic violence is to reinforce social control among the nationalist and loyalist working-class communities. The most compelling theory is that it is designed to undermine the RUC in the eyes of Chris Patten's commission on the future of policing in the province. Sinn Féin says that the RUC does not have a remit in certain areas and thus must be disbanded. Support for this thesis comes from the sudden geographical spread of punishment attacks. Only last week a man was shot in the Fermanagh town of Lissanakea, one of the quietest parts of Northern Ireland.

Drugs are one target of the punishment squads, and they have become a political issue. Sinn Féin and the IRA have long claimed that the RUC fail to arrest drug dealers, and use them as spies. Police sources talk of drug squad operations having to be abandoned after Special Branch complaints that their informants are being targeted for beatings.

The growing belief among the paramilitaries and their allied parties, especially Sinn Féin, is that punishment attacks do not work. Michael Ritchie, who was formerly with the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders, said: "On the republican side, there is a genuine interest in disengagement from the system of punishment beatings. They would want to disengage from the violent aspects and put in place a proper system."

This has resulted in the birth of a number of schemes aiming to break the cycle of retribution and reoffending. One of the most successful is Youth At Risk, run by Northern Ireland's assistant chief probation officer, Brian McCaughy, and the community worker Jimmy Quinn. On Monday Mo Mowlam met the probation board and discussed the project. Out of the 94 youths who started the year-long course, just a handful reoffended. One of those who have benefited is Jamesy Evans, who wants to work as a volunteer. Another is Martin McAreavey, a former recidivist who was beaten and ended by the paramilitaries for theft and joyriding. He said: "The guys who gave me a beating told me they were members of the Provisional IRA. I was told to leave Northern Ireland and ended up in Preston. I hated it. This scheme allowed me to come back. I have got a life again. I don't have to keep looking over my shoulder all the time."

What happens now is increasingly uncertain. But if the peace process is slowed because of decommissioning or punishment beatings, the SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon worries about the message that will send to the paramilitary groups. "We are taking the keys to the future and throwing them to the masked men in those organisations. What we are saying to them is, 'Look, the political process doesn't work'. The consequences could be very dire."

BY PAUL LASHMAR AND KIM SENGUPTA

UVF and UDA - will not acknowledge that their parent organisations are responsible. They attribute the attacks to "vigilante actions" by locals in areas where the police are not trusted. In truth, everybody knows that the big paramilitary outfits are involved. The Independent's inquiries confirm that most punishment beatings and shootings in nationalist areas are sanctioned by the IRA and carried out by its members, with the knowledge and sometimes the involvement of members of Sinn Féin. In the loyalist areas the attacks are carried out on a much more ad hoc basis by the UVF and the UDA.

The claim made by the RUC and pressure groups such as Families Against Intimidation and Terror is that attacks take place with the sanction of the paramilitaries and the encouragement of their political wings. In both nationalist and loyalist areas, people agree that the local parties know what is going on, because they are frequently asked to act. In the hardline ghettos many people will have no truck with the RUC. In some areas of west Belfast, the local Sinn Féin centre would be the first port of call for many

beatings in the past and now lives outside Belfast. He told us: "Despite what you may think in England, there aren't bunches of sadists going around beating up people just for the hell of it. In fact it is very difficult to get the men to carry these out, to hit someone with a baseball bat, or a big heavy piece of wood or hammer, until the bone shatters - especially if it is a kid."

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Schools for scandal

Sir: Your coverage of the remarks made by Chris Woodhead has been detailed and thorough. However, your leading article of 8 February missed the point.

Mr Woodhead's remarks that a sexual relationship with a pupil might be "educative" undermine social mores that exist to safeguard the interests of two groups of people: young adults and their teachers.

Mr Woodhead was addressing a group of people in initial teacher training, mostly young men and women in their early twenties or even possibly their late teens. Mr Woodhead has given them a licence for licentiousness, although I have greater faith in their professionalism, common sense and moral values than in his.

He is not a football manager or media celebrity; he is the Chief Inspector of Schools. Ousted, of which he is head, makes judgements on the spiritual, moral and social development of thousands of pupils in hundreds of schools each year. Ousted's own handbook states: "Inspectors should consider whether the school provides a moral code as a basis of behaviour which is promoted through the life of the school." Such judgements are now worthless, and will remain so as long as Mr Woodhead remains in office.

I write this letter not only as a teacher in the state system, but as a parent of children in that same system. In one remark Mr Woodhead has placed a major obstacle in the way of truly professional relationships between teachers and pupils.

ROBERT HALL
Stone, Staffordshire

Sir: Chris Woodhead was saying, if I understand him correctly, firstly, that a promising young teacher should not necessarily be barred from the profession for life as a result of one error of judgement. Each case needs to be judged on its merits.

Secondly, he seemed to imply that a relationship between pupil and teacher, like many experiences both good and bad, might be *educative* in the sense that both parties could learn something as a result of their behaviour, even if only not to repeat it. He did not say that he approved of such relationships or suggest that they should form part of the National Curriculum. These opinions seem to me perfectly reasonable.

GEOFFREY HEATH
High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire

Sir: To survive more than one hour in the classroom every teacher needs to judge every situation, control her or his speech at all times and always respect those she or he addresses.

Can Chris Woodhead survive any longer, having irretrievably lost the respect of the teaching profession? We are told that "75 per cent of what he does is right". This is clearly not good enough.

MICHELLE PEPRATX-EVANS
Trinity and All Saints University of Leeds

Sir: Why did Glenn Hoddle have to go, and Chris Woodhead not? Because football is seen as crucial to our national identity and education isn't? Certainly, football seems to have become a substitute for industry, along with its class conflicts - the "workers" (fans) versus the bosses (club directors). Football is serious stuff: education is for girls.

ANDREW FENNER
Barnet, Hertfordshire

Sir: The real reason the education system is at war is because it operates under an ill-defined set of rules which are subject to rapid changes. There may well be 15,000 incompetent teachers in the system, as Mr Woodhead has claimed: the problem is that no two people in education could agree which ones they are.

K B HOARE
Wolverhampton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Winter in Moscow No 3: British ex-pats roll in the snow after taking a steam bath ('banya') in -20°C weather. Many ex-pat workers are now leaving Moscow as the economic crisis deepens. Andy Johnston

Viagra in the House

Sir: Good for Dr Stoate ("MPs prescribed Viagra by doctor in the House", 8 February). At least someone in government recognises the importance of erectile dysfunction. Clearly MPs also consider Viagra to be effective and safe. For the sake of equity I trust that Dr Stoate is also prescribing Viagra to his own patients in Bexleyheath despite the censorship imposed by the Secretary of State.

If there is no surgery in the House of Commons I am intrigued to know how he adhered to the published assessment guidelines for the management of erectile failure, which include a full medical history, blood tests to exclude other medical disorders and an examination of the genitalia. Anyway, why on earth would his colleagues need the drug if 200 miles away from home, if not because their own GPs have been told they are not allowed to prescribe it?

Dr BILL ALEXANDER FRCP
Consultant Physician
Western General Hospitals NHS Trust
Edinburgh

Anxious children

Sir: I write as a grandmother of children aged between 15 months and 15 years. It is disturbing to read that "one child in five suffers mental stress" (report, 4 February).

Whatever the main causes, the situation is not helped by a cut in playtime for five-year-olds, and by the dropping of singing lessons to make more time for arithmetic. Mastery of the three Rs is no alternative to emotional intelligence. Whatever happened to the notion of a liberal education?

As a graduate of old, fully literate and numerate, my chief regret now, as I puff my way across the swimming baths (on a good day) is that I cannot swim, and therefore have been deprived of all water-sports, and that I cannot play a musical instrument and

therefore can only appreciate the skill of others.

Every child should be taught to survive in water, to help themselves and others to survive by adequate first-aid teaching, to know about the workings of their minds and bodies in order to remain mentally and physically healthy, to learn to enjoy the arts and the sports and to care about our world and the people, animals and plants in it.

Some of such skills and acquisitions may be difficult to evaluate, to measure, to endlessly record, to report on. They may not improve one's position in any league table. Judging numeracy is so much simpler.

RUTH E ANLEY
Pocklington, York

Man the killer

Sir: Terence Blacker ("Our phoney sentiments for animals", 2 February) argues, rightly, that it is illogical to disapprove of acts of cruelty to animals in foreign countries while continuing to consume the produce of factory farming.

But, rather than belittling those who care about the suffering of animals, he would have done better to draw the logical

conclusion that objecting to gratuitous cruelty to animals and not buying the produce of factory farming are two strands of a consistently humane approach.

In the same vein he mocked those who treat apes as if they were almost human. Yes, people who visit attractions such as Monkey World are sometimes mawkish. They pose for silly photos with animals and then go and eat bits of dead animal in a restaurant. But at least they have been brought face to face with related species and have had the chance to reflect on our similarities with them.

Terence Blacker points out that human beings do not "hunt down members of close species to our own in the way that chimpanzees do to colobus monkeys". Well, we don't need to, do we? *Homo sapiens* exterminated the Neanderthals centuries ago.

STEPHEN EVELLY
Southampton, Hampshire

Black box for cars

Sir: Philip Thornton's report "Cars to arrest their drivers" (8 February) has missed one superb benefit of black box recorders in cars - insurance claims.

IN BRIEF

right to sell tax-free alcohol to passengers before and during flights, it is a little hypocritical for them to express outrage when drunken passengers cause trouble.

STEPHEN LOWE WATSON
Leaves, East Sussex

Sir: Nicolas Walter questions Paul Valley's assertion that "human beings are hard-wired for religion" and asks, "What is the evidence?" (Right of Reply, 9 February). The answer is: he is. Atheism is the religion of non-belief. To me, Mr Walter

seems to be an atheist fundamentalist not much different from other religious fundamentalists.

Dr SALAH EZZ
Cairo

Sir: Adrian Simmonds (letter, 8 February) feels that the Irish should move on from their obsession with the "evils" of British colonialism and compares this fixation with the past to Britain's bearing the Italian for the past crimes of the Roman Empire. If Italy still held a part of Britain under its rule, he might have a point.

RICHARD BAPTISTE
London SW19

My car was backed into while I was stationary. Six months later I have had to threaten the other driver with legal action if her insurance company does not stop pretending the accident never happened. A black box in each car would prove mine was stationary and the other driver was reversing.

Make it a legal requirement to have a black box and an offence not to produce the data and millions of pounds would be saved in phone calls, letters and court action, not to mention innocent drivers' sanity. It is not an abuse of civil liberties to be forced to tell the truth.

IAIN HOUSTON
Luton, Bedfordshire

King in exile

Sir: I am angered and concerned to read that the South African authorities "after consultation with the current Albanian government" have ended the diplomatic immunity previously given to His Majesty King Leka of the Albanians ("Exiled king arrested as police seize arms cache", 8 February).

It is just over twenty years since Tito's Communist regime in the then Yugoslavia pressured the Spanish government to expel the King because of his support for the Albanians in Kosovo. On that the world might have looked more closely at the plight of the ethnic Albanians then!

The late Anwar Sadat of Egypt, King Hussein of the Belgians and King Husein of Jordan were all good friends to King Leka. Let us pray that Albanians who seek a peaceful and free existence might find some good and supportive friends among the leaders with whom we are left to-day.

The King, Queen Susan, Crown Prince Leka and the Queen Mother, Queen Geraldine, have shown many kindnesses to my family and me over the past twelve years and I urge the South African government to reconsider their position, particularly bearing in mind the struggle of their own people at home and during exile to reach self-determination.

DANIEL COOKE
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire

Marauding 4x4s

Sir: On the day you published Duff Hart-Davis's article on four-wheel-drive vehicles (6 February), I went out with others to enjoy a winter walk along the South Downs Way. I found myself competing with 14 or so such vehicles for right of way over the track. They won.

Surprised by this unusual intrusion, I asked a fellow walker, forced through the barbed wire fence of the adjacent field in an effort to keep her two dogs out of harm's way, if she knew why the 4x4s were there.

It was the hunt, came the resigned reply. But they hunt on horses, don't they, I asked naively. Of course they do; these were the hunt followers who, perhaps legitimately, perhaps not, had obtained access to the Way and were pursuing their own quarry along its length.

Thwarted in their attempts to get closer to the site of the chase, they perched on the sides of the track at the best available vantage points and waited, binoculars raised, in the comfort of their chariots, like harpies awaiting the moment of drama.

Normally I expect to see these monster vehicles plying their way, often half on the pavements, along the narrow lane close to my house. They are not on agricultural business then either. They are taking children to school.

Something needs to be done.

JENNY POWELL
Storrington, West Sussex

Ageist jobs bias

Sir: The decline in job prospects for men approaching retirement age is blamed on the high cost of funding salary-related pensions ("Jobs for middle-aged men vanishing", 8 February).

This can hardly be the case for the large numbers of low-paid manual workers who lose their jobs, since they are most unlikely to be members of generous final-salary pension schemes.

In the case of better-paid employees, it is a false economy for employers to resort to early retirement for those in their 50s simply to save on pension contributions. The resultant competition for the diminishing supply of skilled workers in their 20s and 30s merely has the effect of bidding salaries upwards.

Sadly, the deterioration in job prospects for middle-aged employees reflects the ageist policies being adopted by an increasing number of employers.

NIGEL WILKINS
London SW7

Net censors

Sir: It was disingenuous of John Carr (Right of Reply, 8 February) to ask whether illegal material on the Internet should be censored, just as it is in the "real" world.

In many ways it is much more straightforward to censor material on the Net than elsewhere. In its first year of operation the Internet Watch Foundation, of whose policy board John Carr is a member, arranged for more than 2,000 items to be removed from the Net. In each case, the IWF simply asks for Internet service providers to remove material from their servers and, in a flash, the material is gone. Police do not need to be called, juries do not need to be convened and there is no accountability to the public.

ALAN DOCHERTY
London SE22

Our filth ignored

Sir: If "there is no information for Scotland and Northern Ireland", how do your Environment Correspondent and headline writers know that the factories described in your report of 8 February are the "worst polluters in Britain"? Is it merely that anything in England is well known, by those in London, to be bigger than elsewhere?

RICHARD CORMACK
St Andrews, Fife

The overlooked beauty of vapour trails and macaroni

"SO, WHAT" do you think are the 10 most significant art works of the last 100 years?" asked the man at the bar.

We all gazed in amazement. The man at the bar had over raised the subject of culture before, except once to make a dismissive remark about Damien Hirst.

"In what sense?" said the landlord.

"In the sense," said the man, "that every man and his sister working for every paper and every input TV station are preparing lists of the most significant, the most notable, the most important everything, in time for the millennium. The 10 greatest writers, greatest novels, greatest British table tennis players... I just happened to notice that nobody has bothered to select the 10 greatest art works of

the last 100 years and I thought it would while away a few minutes to sort out a list."

"Make it 1,000," said the man with the dog.

"All right, 1,000 minutes," said the man with the dog. "Otherwise the Mona Lisa wouldn't qualify. Or anything by Constable."

"Oh, boring, boring, boring," said the lady with the green hair and the matching Chartreuse. "Who wants a list with all the usual suspects in? You want to get a few surprises. That's why they give them the Bible and Shakespeare on the Desert Island."

"Pardon?" said the resident Welshman.

"When Sue Lawley puts them away on a desert island," said the green lady, "and she makes them

have the Bible and Shakespeare, it's not because she thinks they ought to have them. It's to relieve them of the duty of choosing them as their book. Otherwise too many people would choose them, see?"

We sort of saw.

"All right, think of a better idea," said the wife of the man who never said anything.

"I will," said the lady with green hair. "Choose the 10 most significant art forms of the 20th century."

"You mean, like jazz?" said the jazz bore.

"I most certainly do not," said the green lady. "What I mean is that there are certain visual media in the 20th century which we still don't recognise as art forms but which have enriched our lives."

"Name one," said the man at the bar.



MILES KINGTON

"If Damien Hirst went up in a plane and did those trails, we'd all think he was a great artist"

"Vapour trails," she said. There was a grand silence. We waited for an explanation. It came.

"Sometimes," she said, "you look up into an evening sky while the heavens are all blue while we down here are already in dusk, and you see a white plume which is a vapour trail left behind by a high passing aircraft making the most beautiful patterns. Nobody has ever said, 'Look at those dreadful vapour trails', as they might say 'Dreadful pylons'. A vapour trail is always lovely, especially as it twists in the grip of the stratospheric winds and starts to fade away..."

She paused, exhausted with the effort of poetry.

"She's right, actually," said the man at the bar. "I'd never thought of it. But if bloody Damien Hirst went up in a plane and did those trails, we'd all think he was a great artist. Anonymous pilots do it every day. Should get lottery money."

"I'd like to nominate motorway cones," said the man with the dog. The dog said nothing. "Sometimes I have looked ahead down a motorway and marvelled at the patterns which have been created with cones, over long distances. I've never dared say so before, for fear of being thought mad."

"Any advance on motorway cones?" said the resident Welshman, entering into the spirit of things. "I'd like to nominate sheep droppings, except that people would make anti-Welsh jokes."

"How about topiary?" said the man at the bar.

"Think big," said the lady with green hair. "Think crop circles."

"Think ploughing patterns," said a visiting farmer.

"Think angels," said the vicar, who was no longer sober.

"Think hairstyling," said the green lady, patting her emerald locks, and we all laughed.

"Think pasta," said the man who normally never spoke. We all paused. "Pasta is not only an art form. It has also saved my life."

We paused some more.

"I once went to collect my little girl from school in midwinter, and by the time we came out again, the snow had closed in and cut us off. There were about a dozen of us parents and offspring, trapped in a school overnight, with no food at all - except the kindergarten pictures made out of dried pasta shapes. We boiled up the children's pictures and ate them. To this day, I believe it saved our lives."

There was a short pause and then the conversation moved on to something quite different.

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Certainly firm, but this punitive asylum policy is far from fair

YESTERDAY'S PLANS for asylum and immigration were an unwelcome reminder of New Labour's authoritarian tendencies. Thousands of asylum-seekers are to be given leave to remain, but the good news ends there. Payments in kind, rather than cash benefits, are to be introduced, the application procedure is to be speeded up, and those who carry illegal immigrants into Britain are to face heavier punishments. At the heart of the proposed Bill is a fundamental illusion - that Britain can pull up some imaginary drawbridge, and behave as if the world has gone away.

The Government's ideas are being presented to Middle England as "getting tough" with unwelcome gate-crashers, who are flocking to Britain to take advantage of welfare hand-outs. This is simply not true. Those found not to be genuine asylum-seekers had their right to cash help cut off by the Conservatives. Moreover, asylum-seekers often find themselves housed in the dirtiest and most crowded parts of London's bed-and-breakfast under-world, as local authorities struggle to cope with their sheer numbers. This is no over-generous gravy train.

Britain is not a "soft touch". Does anyone really believe that Michael Howard and his fellow Tory grandstanders would have left any loophole unplugged, if they could have gained voter approval with another raft of restrictive measures at Conservative Party Conference? Other nations have taken far more than their fair share of refugees, especially from the former Yugoslavia; Germany and the Scandinavian nations have a particularly honourable record. Britain is still struggling to catch up.

There is a problem with asylum. The previous administration left the Immigration Service badly organised, poorly funded and demoralised. The ensuing backlog of 52,000 cases has been exacerbated because of the worsening situation in many parts of eastern Europe in particular. The most recent case has been Kosovars seeking asylum from Serb aggression; other groups pleading persecution have included Romanians and Czech Gypsies. In this situation, accelerating the asylum process by cutting down the number of appeals is probably justified; but stopping welfare payments even to perfectly legal asylum applicants will do nothing to reduce the numbers of those wanting to enter the country.

The numbers seeking asylum in Britain may be growing, but they are growing all over the world, boosted by widely available air travel. Even so, refugees are mostly taken in by neighbouring countries who are just as poor. The governments of Uganda, Burundi and Zaire, who took in millions of fleeing Rwandans, would probably not sympathise with a British plea that we are taking too many refugees.

There is also a problem with immigrants remaining in Britain after their application for asylum has been turned



down; in 1997, 28,000 "disappeared" in this way. But, as the numbers wanting to come to Britain continue to mount, how will replacing cash benefits with food packages and payments in kind solve this problem? It is more likely to cause more such "disappearances". The Government seems to believe that it will save money with this Bill, but the more likely outcome is that it will have to spend more on immigration officers, and waste more police time hunting those who have already been refused entry.

This is why the Chief Executive of the Refugee Council, Nick Hardwick, is right when he calls the Bill a "mish-mash" - firm but not fair or fast. Tinkering with the system will not make the real world go away. On the contrary, it could leave us back where the Tories left off: punishing those who cannot defend themselves, harming race relations in this country, playing to the lowest common denominator of public opinion, and refusing to spend the money that is needed to care properly for those who seek sanctuary within our borders.

And the winner is... the British film industry

THE LIST of British Oscar nominees is a long one: Dame Judi Dench, Lynn Redgrave and Brenda Blethyn for Best Supporting Actress, Sir Tom Stoppard for Best Screenplay, Sir Ian McKellen for Best Actor, and Emily Watson for Best Actress. Such recognition gives the lie to some of the recent pessimism about the state of our film industry.

Following the December incorporation of Polygram Filmed Entertainment into the United Artists arm of Seagram, the Canadian group, all was doom and gloom. The company that had overseen *Four Weddings and a Funeral* had been swallowed up, and more bad news was to follow. The Arts Council cap on the amount of lottery money being spent on any single project seemed to put Ealing Studios at risk as the site of the National Film and Television School.

But the pluses outweigh the minuses. It is true that most of the money backing innovative British talent comes from American companies. Miramax funded *Shakespeare in Love*, nominated yesterday in a record-breaking 13 categories. The British success stories *The Full Monty* and *Little Voice* were supported, respectively, by 20th Century Fox and Buena Vista.

But this is no cause for alarm. Britain has a wealth of special-effects expertise, and world-class studios at Pinewood and Shepperton. We have some of the best actors (and directors and technicians) in the world. American and British audiences, tired of the same New York and Los Angeles cityscapes as backdrops, seem sold on British style and landscape (gratifyingly, not the chocolate-box version). If foreign money wishes to subsidise the skills and know-how that are the real basis of this industry, so be it. Far better to compete in the open market than to base our film-making on subsidies from the National Lottery, the results of which have been so disappointing.

Whatever happened to your ethical foreign policy, Mr Cook?

SIERRA LEONE is moving closer to Whitehall. Too close for comfort for the Foreign Office and for Robin Cook. Yesterday, a Commons Select Committee accused Sir John Kerr, the head of the foreign service, of failing in his duty to ministers, a grave charge against a civil servant.

Downing Street leapt to Sir John's defence but in noticeably unhelpful terms. "He runs a huge department and runs it very well." We can all agree that Sir John runs a huge department. Rather too huge, and rather too resistant to being scaled down as it happens, but that is another story. He was there as a leading figure in a catalogue of obfuscation, disinformation and incompetence which ended up with the Government running two contradictory policies at once, hoping that no one would notice the difference and then seeking with monumental clumsiness to cover its tracks when the truth began to leak out.

The Foreign Secretary has announced that he is "standing by" his officials, a guarantee they may find less than soothing. Less than a year ago, in response to the initial allegations about Sandline International's involvement in Sierra Leone, Mr Cook blamed his officials for failing to inform Tony Lloyd, a Foreign Office minister, of a Customs and Excise investigation into Sandline's arms delivery to Sierra Leone.

Why does it matter? Sierra Leone is a long way away. Its democratically elected leader, President Kabbah, may not be a candidate for the human rights activist of the year award, but he is threatened by an even less pre-

possessing opposition. So what if the West Africa department were running their own policy of tacit support for the use of a mercenary organisation to prop up a friendly government in distress? What is all the fuss about? Tony Blair's target voter, Sierra Man, does not waste much time thinking about Sierra Leone.

Go down this route and you end up excluding the Government from accountability for anything it does not fancy being accountable for. Asking awkward questions about what really happened is a rude intrusion into the purring business of government. That is dumbed-down democracy.

The British Government privatised its dirty work in the former colony of Sierra Leone, where it has a substantial interest in the diamond industry, without acknowledging that it was prepared to encourage the use of a mercenary organisation to defend our trading interests.

There is a debate to be had on whether governments should farm out intervention in distant conflicts. But it has never taken place. Mr Cook's stated position is that he disapproves of the spread of mercenary forces. Indeed, the UK promulgated the UN's embargo on the export of arms to either side in the civil war.

The departmental report by Sir Thomas Legg states that "Mr Cook and Mr Lloyd confirmed the goal of drying up arms to all the parties in the Sierra Leone conflict". But what is this? "This aspect was not published abroad... nor to Parliament, the public and to staff."

No indeed. As far as the public pre-



ANNE MCELVOY

There is a debate to be had on whether governments should farm out intervention in distant conflicts

sentation of the policy was concerned, the embargo was interpreted as only applying to the insurrectionary forces. By this sleight of hand, the Government was able to encourage the result it wanted - armed intervention by regional forces to restore President Kabbah, while formally being committed to an arms embargo. It was, as the Select Committee report goes on to say, "dealing in half-truths - a dangerous commodity".

It does not matter how rarefied the subject. When governments say one thing and do, or allow something entirely different to be done, we should cry foul. More worrying than the reversible policy on arms supply has been the Government's willingness to escape responsibility for it. Mr Cook refused last summer to co-operate with the select committee enquiry on the

grounds that the Legg inquiry was in process. Were that to count as a precedent, all that any minister in trouble need do to stave off parliamentary scrutiny is summon up a bland Whitehall figure to run a departmental inquiry. We know these inquiries. They neither bark nor bite.

Mr Cook refused to allow the head of MIS to give evidence to the committee, thus reinforcing the intelligence services' reluctance to succumb to parliamentary scrutiny. Yesterday, he commented that the inquiry "has not uncovered a single fact not made public by Legg months ago". This is rich coming from a minister who sought to block the committee's access to Foreign Office telegrams and to the head of the relevant intelligence service. If the committee had difficulty unearthing facts, we know why.

I like to imagine how things would have gone if the Mr Cook we knew in Opposition had been confronted with the behaviour of Foreign Secretary Mr Cook. He would have torn himself from limb. It may be that he gets a certain perverse pleasure from squashing in others the same non-conformist instincts he used to have himself, but this is hardly edifying.

The broader truth is that scrutiny of the executive in Britain has never been weaker. Most select committees are carefully constructed so as to cause the least amount of inconvenience to the relevant departments. Select committees are our only hope of knowing what government is doing. They should be strengthened, not attacked or undermined.

The committee had no option but to base its report on the account of Sir John Kerr. But to accept Sir John's account that information about a Customs and Excise investigation was withheld from Mr Cook for four weeks, even after Customs investigators had raided the Foreign Office, you would have to believe either that Sir John was bent on under-informing the Foreign Secretary, or that he presided over a serious failure of communication.

Knowing that Sir John is both an experienced and a politically sophisticated diplomat, a man used to reaching either conclusion. Is it not possible that he did brief ministers, including Robin Cook - or at least pass on the relevant material to be read - and that he is taking the blame in order to protect them? That would not necessarily be an act of altruism. An ambitious civil servant may conclude that a reputation for protecting a vulnerable minister will stand him in better stead than siding with his department. We still do not know the truth.

The Government has veered between two approaches to damage limitation and failed in both. The first was to blind us with detail, in the hope that we would become confused and bored by the intricacies of the saga. The second was to apply the simplistic maxim "if it works, it's right" to the complexities of Africa.

Not yet a year on, the renegades are fighting for control of the diamond mining areas. Freetown is a blood-bath, the insurrection is revived, the brutality deepened. So much for this ethical foreign policy. It wasn't right, and it didn't work.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"This is not easy, and frankly it's not a lot of fun, but we are making progress."
Christopher Hill
chief mediator at the Kosovo peace talks

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Liberty is the right to do everything which the laws allow."
Baron de Montesquieu
French writer and historian

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THE CONTAMINATED blood trial is absolutely necessary. It is necessary for the victims and for their families who have been plunged into unhappiness by the cruellest of injustices and who deserve some reparation. And it is necessary for the three accused ministers who are currently condemned by public opinion with neither proof nor judgment. Justice must establish personal and criminal intent. Without it, if the defendants are

condemned, the discrediting of politics will be doubled by the disastrous imposition of a trial by public opinion.

IS THIS a simple case of ethics, or just more mischief-making? We are all in two minds regarding the trial. Serious accusations have been aired and it is vital that justice be done. Furthermore, it is difficult not to rejoice when politicians are called to account. This is a

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The French press on the trial of three ministers for involuntary manslaughter

tragedy provoked by a mixture of incompetence and the ignorance of the illness itself - the victims have a right to this trial. We all need to hear the truth. *Le Figaro*

THIS WHOLE business finds itself - as if anyone needs reminding - at the heart of two French shortcomings, two evils suitable for our system: the first is the matter of the collective

conscience, which always prefers to punish rather than make reparation; the second concerns the privileges of the prince, in this case the privileges of the princes, who no longer have cause to be such. *Le Monde*

NOBODY COULD seriously think that there was malicious intent in the decisions taken at the time. It is incredibly difficult, even if these decisions weren't the best taken, to say

which would have been. Yes, there are victims. Yes, we must take their unhappiness, their distress and their pain into consideration and do whatever we can to make up for that. But it should be remembered that these victims are the victims of a virus rather than victims of the authorities who certainly would have wanted to avoid at all costs the drama in which they have suddenly found themselves immersed. *Le Quotidien*

PANDORA

ONE PERSON who may not be thrilled with the nominations for this year's Oscars is the British director Tony Kaye. Kaye directed *American History X*, which has earned Edward Norton the Best Actor nomination. But Kaye and Norton didn't get on: "He is a narcissistic dilettante," said Kaye of his leading man.

Kaye was so upset about problems with the film that he tried to have his name removed as director and replaced with "Humpty Dumpty". At one meeting with his annoyed studio chiefs, Kaye arrived accompanied by a rabbi, a priest and a Tibetan monk, saying he wanted to add some spirituality to the event. Maybe the Academy needs enlightening, too?

THE FORMER Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, can still pack a punch despite having lost his ministerial weight. In a pre-recorded interview with BBC Wales recently, the presenter Steve Evans asked Davies how he thought the infamous "error of judgement" on Clapham Common would affect his campaign for a seat in the Welsh Assembly. Davies managed to shrug the subject off but he made his annoyance known after the interview. Pandora was curious as to why the exchange had disappeared when the piece was aired. One of Aunty's spokespeople explained that this was because of "editorial and time purposes".

IT SEEMS that those around Peter Mandelson are going to great lengths to keep his profile low. An acquaintance of Pandora's lives in Hartlepool, and was keen to buy a recent issue of *Punch*, which included yet another article on Mandelson. Pandora's friend went to a well-known newsagent to purchase his copy, but he was told that there were none available. Enquiring about the sudden rush for the satirical magazine, the wannabe *Punch* reader was told that someone had arrived early in the morning and bought the entire stock. Obviously the morning light is still subdued enough for the emissaries of the Prince of Darkness to operate.

THE QUEEN Alia international airport in Amman has been the scene of extra commotion this week, following the

demise of King Hussein. As the planes from around the world landed at eight-minute intervals, one notable near-miss was the plane carrying Saddam Hussein's representative landing immediately after President Clinton's Air Force One.

FOR PRESIDENT Clinton, the funeral of King Hussein was a chance to be at the centre of the world stage, where he appears to be most comfortable. However, the situation at home has truly reached rock bottom. A group calling itself the Clinton-Without-Trousers Brigade has launched itself into action, draping more than 100 pairs of underpants from trees in the Capitol Hill area to protest at the President's "reckless, predatory and sometimes violent behaviour towards innocent women".

NED SHERRIN is bleak about the future of books. He told a recent gathering at the British Book Awards: "It's sad that books have to be filled with four-letter words beginning with 'f' and 's' in order to sell. Then again, *Jeng shui* is very popular." Sherrin added: "The last time I went to the library to get a book on the subject, I found that the section had been moved."

PANDORA WAS interested to read an article penned by the Lib Dems' previously Eurosceptic MP Nick Harvey entitled: "Why I'm now in favour of a single currency." Hmm. What Pandora wants to know is, where was the sub-heading which, surely, should have read: "I really, really want to be the Lib Dem leader and I have to kid a largely Euro-friendly membership to vote for me?" No matter, it was pretty clear between the lines.

BRINGING BACK memories of the Beatles' *Mystery Tour* is the latest idea from the estate of John Lennon (pictured), which is controlled by Yoko "Oh No". Roll up for... the 1999 Educational Tour Bus. Beatles fans will be pleased to learn that the bus stops in California and Arizona and is going nowhere near Liverpool.

Pandora can be contacted by e-mail at pandora@independent.co.uk

Surfing the media maelstrom



KEN LIVINGSTONE

No one ever asked me whom I was going to bed with and what I was doing when I got there

by newspaper journalists and then ratle off four quick interviews, one each for BBC and ITV radio and TV. Nowadays, you aim to try to cover all the journalists at one half-hour press conference and spend the rest of the day repeating the same basic message to what seem like dozens of separate radio and television programmes.

It is this shift in the balance of coverage from newspaper to the electronic media that has helped my

personal political survival. When I became leader of the GLC in 1981 it was the newspaper coverage that determined how the public saw me and radio and television had to respond to the agenda set by the newspapers every morning. Now, the proliferation of electronic media means that most members of the public get to hear you being interviewed live or at least unedited and form their own opinion of the worth of what you are saying.

What is more, hostile newspapers can't run a sustained campaign of vitriol if it contrasts with their readers' own direct experience of what you have said on radio or television.

Critical newspapers have responded to this shift of power by simply choosing to ignore you if they are no longer in a position to denounce you. This was clearly shown by the coverage of my advert in the *London Evening Standard* on Monday, with the quality press by and large reporting the event but the mass circulation dailies, which are opposed to my candidacy for mayor, either ignoring the event altogether or burying it in a paragraph or two.

The contrast with the bad old days is stunning. After I'd had just six months as leader of the GLC, the

newspaper coverage of my performance as leader had been so devastating that I seriously did not believe that it would be possible for me to get elected to any position ever again.

The classic example was the *Daily Mail*, which brought their chief war correspondent back from covering the civil war in Lebanon and sent him into County Hall under the instruction to file six stories a day, the three most damaging of which would then appear in the following day's paper.

The late Sir David English at each morning's editorial conference would always ask, "what are we doing on the GLC today?" and would often instruct the *Mail's* cartoonists to produce some particular hit of virulence to go with the main story.

Now, as it's almost impossible to sue because of a cartoon, the most damaging images of the GLC, such as the one of the IRA applying for a GLC grant to purchase nails for their bombs, always appeared in cartoon form in these papers.

Then, of course, there was the issue of my private life. Having fought 11 elections I must have canvassed well over 50,000 people in

that time, and not once ever asked me about any aspect of my private life.

My views on the economy, transport, defence and Ireland, yes, but what I was doing when I got there, never. This did not, however, stop newspapers arguing that there was a public interest, which was extended to the point where my partner found one *Daily Mail* journalist going through my dustbin, while wearing long rubber gloves.

As the GLC had launched a campaign to tackle discrimination against lesbians and gay men there was a vast amount of newspaper coverage implying that I was gay. As I have never once responded to any media rumours about my private life this allowed wider and wider speculation to be published.

The all-time low was a *Private Eye* article claiming that I was importing pills from San Francisco that changed the taste of human semen to strawberry flavour. Although I just laughed this off, it was depressing to find that some people believed it enough to write to me asking where they could buy them.

Set against that low point, the last 48 hours of my life have been a complete doddle.

We make no apologies for our tough benefits regime



ALISTAIR DARLING

We will keep people's minds on what they could do with their lives other than claiming benefit

stable world, where people work in several jobs between starting out on employment, and retirement. The role of government has changed since post-war Britain.

The new Welfare Reform Bill, published today, sees a radical change in the culture of the benefits system and a new contract between the state and the individual. The new legislation says, in effect: "We will help you to get into work, but in return you have to do something to help yourself."

The new regime will be far tougher than people thought. People will be asked to come in for interview. We will not apologise for our determination actively and repeatedly to keep people's minds on what they could be doing with their lives other than claiming benefit.

All the evidence is that the longer that people are out of the labour market, the longer they take to get back into it. So we will end the something-for-nothing ap-

proach that has characterised the past. In its place will be a new approach and a new gateway to the benefits system for everyone of working age, where everyone gets the advice they need and where the option of taking benefit and going home is no longer there. People have a clear responsibility to help themselves. And it is a responsibility that most are more than willing to accept. They can see a genuine partnership between themselves and their government, dedicated to a common purpose.

The old, passive approach to paying benefits means that the benefit system we inherited has failed to keep pace with economic and social change, with people being dependent when they need not be.

Two-thirds of current spending has its roots in decisions taken before the Beveridge Report in 1942. In the past, governments have simply reacted to the symptoms of failure - spending more, but doing little to tackle its underlying causes. Between 1979 and 1997, the Conservatives increased spending by more than 90 per cent. But, despite that, one in three children was living in poverty and one in five non-retired households had no one in work. Now one in three people remains at risk of relying on income support in retirement.

Our strategy is to confront the causes of failure: a serious assault on the causes of poverty - poor housing, poor education, poor health and lack of job opportunities. Right across the board, we are investing more to tackle the problems caused by the years of economic and social failure. Benefits cannot remove the causes of poverty.

Today we set out a radical new contract between the state and



People with disabilities are one group the Government aims to help

people of working age - the Single Gateway, replacing the system we inherited, which focused on cash hand-outs, with no support for people to gain independence. Instead, the Single Gateway will provide everyone with a personal adviser who will help them to become independent, in turn ensuring that they receive help to which they are entitled.

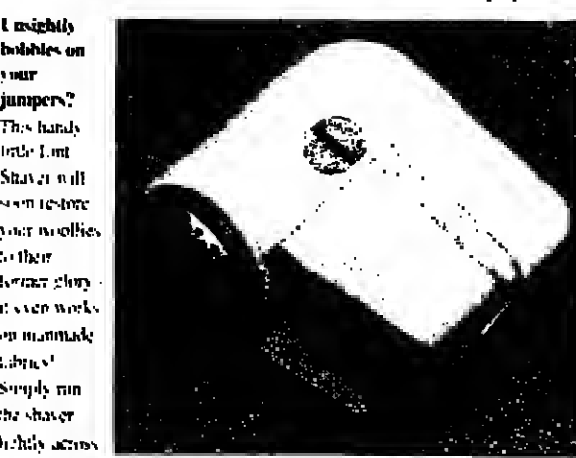
People have every right to expect us to give them this support. But this must be matched with the responsibility of helping themselves. Our new contract will require people to attend an interview as a condition of receiving benefit, and to consider the options available to them. They need help to acquire

skills and training, and we are providing that support. It is their responsibility to take up this offer of guidance and, where they can, to return to work. There can be no excuse for failing to take up that opportunity. The Single Gateway will make sure that people understand the opportunities and advice available.

These are radical reforms. We are not prepared to see people written off - or are we prepared to allow them to write themselves off. By providing work for those who can and security for those who can't, we are reforming a system designed for post-war Britain and building a new system to meet the needs of the next 50 years.

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Time is running out for the car



PODIUM

CHRIS WRIGHT
From a lecture given at
Gresham College,
London by Middlesex
University's chief
transport researcher

IT WAS the internal combustion engine that finally realised the ambitions of the masses for personal transport. It took time. Early motors were monstrously expensive and getting about in an early automobile was not easy. In fact, the challenge was part of the attraction - motoring quickly became a great sport for the wealthy.

In spite of the difficulties, the enthusiasm for motoring reached extraordinary heights. Engineers were hrimming with ideas for new vehicles and new technology, some of which were sensible and some not. Even the mono-wheel made an appearance, and has reappeared at intervals ever since. We do not know how the driver was expected to make an emergency stop without the entire assembly rotating inside its own tyre.

Post-war austerity brought Europe back down to earth with a bump. Engineers were forced to lower their sights and in the process created an extraordinary phenomenon: the humble car. The humble car was an attempt by German aircraft manufacturers to turn

their expertise and production capacity to a mass market.

For a while these motorised prams were quite successful until their owners discovered they were liable to be blown over in a gale. Buyers soon returned to the predictable comfort of the Mini, the Volkswagen Beetle and other European small cars, which together opened up the whole of Britain to the family motorist.

The fun didn't last long. Traffic jams involving horse-drawn vehicles had always been common in the larger city centres, and with the arrival of the family car, the congestion spread. In the midst of the clamour for faster and cheaper transport, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that until the Fifties, ordinary people managed without cars altogether. Do we need to travel as much as we think we do?

It used to be thought that "teleworking" and home entertainment would change the way we live. Commuting would disappear. Conceivably, at some time in the future we would project life-size images of ourselves holographically into other people's homes. An "intelligent" computer might

synthesise your speech and bodily movements. You could "be" in several places at once. But so far, it seems the predictions were optimistic.

What we would really like is a car that drives itself, so that we can eliminate road accidents for good, and do away with the need for traffic enforcement into the bargain.

Unfortunately, the world is populated with animals having no grasp of safety principles.

Neither pedestrians nor other animals are ergonomically designed to mix with motor vehicles, not even so-called "intelligent" vehicles.

No computer has yet been built that can be trusted to recognise a brick wall, let alone an elephant, and although it will come eventually it may be a long way off. Consequently, it is hard to see how vehicle movement could be automated within the road system as we know it.

Humans cannot help but be excited by the imagery of motion. Trains, cars and planes have personae. As long ago as 1937, the American design guru Raymond Loewy published a book consisting almost entirely of pictures of steam locomotives of which any science fiction film producer would have been proud. His own car and locomotive designs are still regarded as classics. Later, the Volkswagen Beetle and the BMC Mini became chubby little friends, like Noddy's car in the *Enid Blyton* books brilliantly illustrated by Beek.

Transport technology and transport design are two different things. They converge

only when technology is pushed to the limit, typically in aircraft design.

But in the case of the family saloon, power is not critical: even a Rover Metro can go faster than is advisable in today's road environment, so the pressure to maximise performance is much less.

Clearly, transport design has never been entirely a rational pursuit. More contentiously, I want to suggest that technology has not been driven necessarily by rational forces either. Inventors have pursued their dreams irrespective of scientific logic or even commercial good sense. The environment has gone to the wall.

The road is narrowing and time is running out. Throughout the developing world, billions of people dream of owning motorcars like their American and European cousins.

Rising prosperity is bringing within reach a level of car ownership that would cause irreparable damage to the environment. We need to invest in new technology in order to divert travel demand into sustainable channels.

New Scotland, old fears



DEBORAH ORR
The new Scots, like
Renton in 'Trainspotting',
chose life. But not the
kind Labour has in mind

I'VE JUST spent a weekend in the new Scotland, where everyone is hip. I left the old Scotland 15 years ago because nobody was hip - or, more precisely, because nobody, especially me, could get a hip job. I have marvelled for the last decade and a half that all Scotland seemed to become a creative, vibrant and forward-looking nation was for me to give up and head south.

In the old Scotland, people were obsessed with lists, and in puts up and down the country people could be heard compiling them each evening. Items that the Scots had invented, medical breakthroughs the Scots had made, world leaders with Scottish ancestors, and so on and on and on. These lists were notable particularly because they were entirely backward-looking, and checkable only by reference to the history books.

In the new Scotland, people are still obsessed with lists, and in bars up and down the country they can be heard discussing them each evening. Scots who are internationally successful actors, Scots whose oenophiles have sold more than a million copies, Scots who are massive pop stars, artists, designers, and so on. These lists are notable because they are out of date the day after they are created as another young Braveheart splatters on to the world stage. They are, therefore, supplemented by other lists of people who are about to make the breakthrough any minute now. They are entirely forward-looking, and checkable only by awaiting the judgement of history.

In the old Scotland, you only ever saw the kilt being worn by small girls and during the Edinburgh International Tattoo. Though the participants were members of Scottish regiments and could be forgiven for wearing the kilt, you could tell which of the audience members were American tourists by the fact that you could see their hairy knees. These tourists would find the stir they created rather gratifying.

In the new Scotland, no wedding is complete without a phalanx of men in full-dress tartan and at least one piper; up-and-coming young Scotsmen go dashing off to London Fashion Week with polka-dot and silver kilts for sale; and everyone carries a camera and a handy hooked implement in case Ewan McGregor happens to wander by with no pants on. He appears to find the stir that he has created rather gratifying.

In the old Scotland, people rallied against the English, who had beaten and colonised the nation. Although it had to be admitted that the Campbells were a clan of traitors responsible for the Glencoe Massacre, no one was really willing to face the fact that at Culloden, the "English" army of destruction had been largely made up of Scottish mercenaries.

In the new Scotland, documentary makers have to cancel their programmes because they cannot find anyone who is willing to discuss

have had to close because of subsidence, for parts of the town are now collapsing down into the abandoned mines that once brought the town prosperity.

A glance at the local paper, *The Wishaw Press*, brings news of a transatlantic squabble. *The New York Times* has just published a feature on Hamilton, the nearest big town, graced by the presence of no less than the local Marks & Spencer. The article is not complimentary, telling of slums, criminal youth, substance abuse and fearful pensioners. The new Scots aren't taking this lying down, and counter on the letters pages with tales of crack and crime in the Bronx.

Talk in the pub is of the fabulously vocal boogie that Donald Dewar, the man who, if all goes well with Labour, will become the first minister of Scotland in May, was greeted with on a trip to Inver, the Rangers' football ground, as a protest against job losses.

For the new Scotland has found itself in an industrial slump that is 10 times worse than that of the rest of the UK, in which companies face their toughest trading conditions for 20 years. This slump has cost the nation 2,000 jobs in the last few weeks alone, on top of the 14,000 that were lost last year. The new Scotland provides the real answer as to why the Bank of England made that "surprise" 0.5 per cent cut last week. And the new Scotland needs interest rates to be cut again within weeks, if it is to avoid a full-blown recession.

The threat of SNP votes in the May elections is a warning to New Labour not to claim responsibility for Scotland's admirable, even miraculous optimism, just as Unionist support of Rhodri Morgan as Labour's candidate for the Welsh Assembly is a warning that, despite its formal acceptance, Fairness at Work is more tolerated in the union than admired, and London's sympathy to "Red Ken" and his mayoral challenge is a warning that London wants to make some symbolic amends for, and not further colonise, the policies of Thatcherism.

The Scots know that the new Scotland, like the Cool Britannia of which it is a part, is made up of the trappings of counter-culture. It represents the flower of resistance to the years of Tory rule and the triumph of people over politics. New Labour does not do itself a service by attempting to burnish itself in the light of Cool Britannia, for the people who made it happen know that their triumph came in spite of the government policies that New Labour continues to deploy. The new Scots, just like the rest of the cool Britons, took drugs, signed on the dot then fiddled it, and refused to take jobs they didn't really want. The new Scots, like Renton, the anti-hero of *Trainspotting*, chose life. But not the kind of life New Labour seems to have in mind for them. And that's the warning in a vote for Alex Salmond.



Ewan McGregor, the kilt-clad actor who symbolises the success of modern Scotland

RIGHT OF REPLY

PAULINE KIDNER

The Patron of the National Federation of Badger Groups responds to an article on Saturday by Duff Hart-Davis

THE NATIONAL Federation of Badger Groups is very concerned that a remark I made at a meeting in Gloucestershire has been misrepresented (report, 30 January) as our supporting the Culling Programme. In answer to a specific remark by Brian Jennings (NFBG) stating that the NFBG would not put down an infectious TB badger that was suffering, I emphatically denied this. We follow very strict health regimes.

We are totally against the badger-culling programme as it is logistically impractical. More worryingly, farmers are openly admitting to taking matters into their own hands and killing badgers in the no-call part of the triplet of experiments. While £27m has been allocated to the culling programme, only £7m is to be spent jointly on vaccine research and other areas of contributing factors such as trace element deficiency, animal husbandry and climate.

It is already accepted that TB incidences must be due to multiple factors and that badgers are not the single cause, which is why one farm will get a TB breakdown and the next-door one will not, even though they share the same social group of badgers.

Indeed it is still not possible to identify the difference between immune, infected and infectious badgers when they test positive. More than 20 years of culling have proved that this method does not work and some research shows that this can exacerbate the problem. Yet there are rumours of extended culling in addition to the experiment. Is this also to come out of the taxpayer's pocket?

With incidences of TB breakdowns increasing across the country attributed to cattle or badgers, involving different strains of TB that have never been seen before, we cannot continue to follow this blinkered approach.

Blaming the badger is a total red herring and the price of culling will mean that we shall soon run out of money and still have no answers to this serious problem.

A killer that never went away

A DOCTOR'S first duty is to do more good than harm. How rarely that duty has been honoured in the last 200 years! The march of science is slow and stumbling, and the central lesson of this book is that progress is always halting, with false starts and wrong turnings. Scepticism is the only proper response to medical claims and counter-claims, however distinguished their proponents.

Tuberculosis has defied medical science for 2,000 years, and still defies it now. Over the past two centuries, since John Keats coughed, turned his pillow crimson and died in 1821, its incidence has risen and fallen without parent regard to the laws of science, or have the ways of treating it.

We seldom hear the term "invalid" these days, although more than half the population over 65 describe themselves as having a chronic ailment, according to last month's *Social Trends*. The word conjures up images of patients swathed in bedclothes, sipping weak broth and waiting for an ap-



WEDNESDAY BOOK
THE WHITE DEATH: A HISTORY OF TUBERCULOSIS
BY THOMAS DORMANDY, THE HAMBLETON PRESS, £25

pointment with their maker. Yet little more than 50 years ago it was not uncommon for tuberculosis sufferers to spend months or years in one of the many sanatoria that sprang up around the turn of the century. Now it is rare for any patient to spend more than a few days in hospital - and tuberculosis victims are not admitted at all. They are treated with drugs as outpatients.

If times change, medical hubris does not. Tuberculosis had always been thought a disease of polluted towns, where damp houses and overcrowding facilitated the spread of infection. But in Britain, its highest incidence through the 19th and much of the 20th century was in the moun-

tains of rural Wales, and Norway was one of the most heavily infected countries in Europe.

The highest mortality in the world was among the Bantu workers in Johannesburg. There was a complex interplay between social, economic and immunological factors, but this was unrecognised and even less understood. About 150 years after Keats's death, Sir George Pickering, professor of medicine at Oxford, observed that the history of medicine was a monument to human folly.

The grimest warning in Thomas Dormandy's book comes in the final chapter. After decades in which doctors had advised all manner of strange remedies, many of them lethal (including bloodletting, gold injections and enforced rest), the breakthrough came with the discovery in the Forties of streptomycin and isoniazid, soon to be followed by other drugs. It looked at last as though the disease was beaten. But the optimism has proved to be short-lived. Tuberculosis, always an opportunistic infection, has reappeared with a vengeance.

The reasons are the rise of AIDS and the growth of drug-resistant strains. The emergence of these strains caused near panic in medical circles in New York when first observed in the late Eighties, for it left doctors with almost as few options as they had had at the time of Keats.

Nor should anyone take comfort from the idea that the disease is confined to AIDS. Tuberculosis linked to AIDS has never accounted for more than 20 per cent of cases. Nor is it a



The poet John Keats died of tuberculosis in 1821, at the age of 26

disease confined to the poor. I know one middle-class family of four, three of whom contracted the disease in quick succession. One, an actress waiting for a Concorde flight to New York, vomited blood all over the white carpet of British Airways' VIP lounge.

As Dormandy observes, every illness has a personality that affects more than its victims. Tuberculosis infected the entire culture. This was not only because it killed so many of those who created it (the list of victims reads like a roll-call of genius: Chopin, three of the Brontës, Kafka, Beardsley, Modigliani, Mansfield, Stevenson, Lawrence, Chekhov, Orwell) but because it also ingrained itself on the creational of the non-tuberculous majority. Thus its history is more than a history of medicine. It was not only a killer (there were plenty of those); it transformed lives as well.

This is a scholarly and thorough book, as comprehensive a history as you are likely to find. Dormandy is a

consultant pathologist with a long interest in the disease and he writes in a terse, sceptical and open-minded style, with occasional cursing asides on the foibles of his medical forebears. What are missing are some explanations. I could find no account of what tuberculosis is. I still have no idea what a diathesis is, despite having read a chapter under that heading. Similarly, a discussion of pneumothorax does not explain what it is. For a non-medical readership, these are strange omissions which might have been avoided with more careful attention from an editor.

The story remains a remarkable one, because it is not yet over. Dormandy says that what has characterised the tuberculosis imagination is a capacity for hope and a determination to fight in this life. There is much fighting still to be done if *Homo sapiens* is to outlive *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. But don't bet on it.

JEREMY LAURANCE

WEDNESDAY POEM

THE MARRIAGE VOW
BY LETITIA ELIZABETH LONDON (1802-38)

The altar 'tis of death! for there are laid
The sacrifice of all youth's sweetest hopes.
It is a dreadful thing for woman's lip
To swear the heart away, yet know that heart
Annals the vow while speaking, and shrinks back
From the dark future that it dares not face.
The service read above the open grave
Is far less terrible than that which seals
The vow that binds the victim, not the will
For in the grave is rest.

Our poems until Friday come from the new paperback edition of 'The Penguin Book of Victorian Verse', edited by Daniel Karlin (Penguin, £10.99)

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Dame Iris Murdoch

IRIS MURDOCH was a national institution. Her name has entered the language in adjectival form, as have those of Proust, Kafka and Pinter – once you embark upon reading a Murdoch novel you are caught up in a whole world, a world whose chief characteristic is hordes of characters, each of whom seems to be in love with more than one of the others, and to do improbable things that seem startlingly apposite. There are dark aspects to the Murdochian universe: adultery, incest, erotic follies, betrayal, deception, religious anguish, guilt and even murder are part of her stories, but these are tempered by a strain of metaphysical speculation and ethical concerns – she was a trained philosopher.

Murdoch also portrayed characters who were happy, even in a state of bliss (this is particularly true of the animals who populate her tales – they have personalities, too, and are always blessed with sunny dispositions). Above all, she was a consummate story-teller, prodigiously inventive and generous, in the realist tradition of Dickens, Jane Austen, George Eliot, Henry James, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky: in whose company she would have liked to have found herself.

The Sea, the Sea (1978) is a reasonably typical Murdochian story. Its protagonist, the well-known theatre director Charles Arrowby, is not an evil man – simply completely self-centred. The plot is one of obsession, and borrows from *The Tempest* the theme of the use and surrender of magical power. Charles, a bachelor aged more than 60, has retired to a lonely seaside house, “to repent of a life of egoism”, and lead a simple, solitary life. He cooks horrifyingly disgusting meals for himself (the menus were suggested by Murdoch's husband, John Bayley, who would shock people by pretending to find the food perfectly nice), and soon discovers that the house is haunted.

The tale rattles right along, with something odd emerging from the sea, women making unwelcome resppearances in his life, kidnapping and violent death. The tragicomic world is further populated by Charles's male helpers, who include an old rival, his cousin James, a soldier turned Buddhist. The atmosphere of the novel is intense, the story gripping – it's a real page-turner, though it's an intellectually demanding book about forgiveness and violence.

Murdoch was born in Dublin, presumably because her mother, née Irene Richardson (she and her sister later added the name Cooper) had returned there because she had some female relations there, including her sister, to help with the birth. Some sources say that her mother and father, Hughes Murdoch, moved to London when Iris was one year old, and others say she was nine. In fact, her biographer Peter Conradi has discovered that her father had a London address in 1914. As a civil servant in Ireland he was given the choice of staying on in Dublin or being posted to Belfast or London – he thought it prudent to go to England. Iris Murdoch always felt passionately Irish, but she also felt that it was possible at the same time to be British. She was not only of Ulster Presbyterian stock but had some ancestors that were Plymouth Brethren and Quaker.

She had a particularly happy childhood, which she attributed to being an only child. Her mother had a fine voice, and considered training as a singer, but marriage put paid to that ambition. Murdoch loved to sing herself, and, after a good lunch, often did.

She had a high, reedy version of what she called her mother's “shebeen soprano”. Murdoch was educated at the Froebel Educational Institute in London, and her boarding school was the progressive, high-minded Badminton School, Bristol. It was there that she acquired her facility with, and love of languages, that led her to list “learning languages” as her recreation in *Who's Who*.

In 1938 she went up to Somerville College, Oxford, where she read Greats, was introduced to philosophy and got a First. She went up at the same time as the philosopher Mary Midgley, and in 1939 was joined at Somerville by another philosopher, Philippa Foot, with whom she lived during the Second World War. Roy Jenkins and Kingsley Amis were contemporaries, and remained lifelong friends. From 1938 to 1942 she was one of 30 open members of the Communist Party at Oxford. Sometimes she said she'd been a Communist since she was 13.

Just over a week after her examinations in 1942, she was conscripted as an assistant principal at the Treasury. She was back in London for the second stage of the Blitz, and stayed at the Treasury until June 1944, when she joined the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Association. Murdoch spent the first 15 months with Unrra in London, and left for Brussels in early September 1945, when, almost at once, she met Jean-Paul Sartre and Chico Marx.

Following three months in Belgium, she worked in four different camps in Austria, as an administrator. Dr Jancar, a Slovene who was one of the 30,000 who fled Yugoslavia, told Peter Conradi that Murdoch was impatient with red tape and so unhappy about the conditions of the inmates of the camps, who had to subsist on near-starvation rations, that once she took the keys and illicitly opened the railway carriages containing the potato cargo. On that occasion, Jancar remembered, he found some sweets in his pocket, placed there by Murdoch for him to give to his wife. Her work with dis-

‘I don't read biographies, but apparently people buy them,’ she said. ‘But me? What is there to say about me?’

placed people in the camps meant finding them blankets and food and sometimes new papers and even a new nationality.

She returned in July 1946, having spent two years with Unrra, and applied for a Commonwealth Fellowship to the United States. An inveterate truth-teller, she ticked the “yes” box beside the question “Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?” The result, which annoyed her for the rest of her life, was that she was refused a visa.

In 1947 she was awarded the Sarah Smithson studentship in philosophy at Newnham, Cambridge. There she met Wittgenstein, and, though she did not fall under his spell in the usual way of the postgraduate students who came into contact with him, she remarked the “shocking immediacy” of his presence. Then in 1948 she got a fellowship at



Portrait of Murdoch by Tom Phillips, oil on canvas, 1984-86

By courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London

St Anne's College, Oxford, where she taught philosophy until 1963.

She had fallen in love with Frank Thompson, the older brother of the historian E.P. Thompson, and it was assumed they would marry. But Thompson fought with the partisans in Macedonia and joined them in their march to Sofia, and he was captured and executed by the Nazis. Her next romance was with Franz Stein-

a Czech Jewish refugee who was a poet and anthropologist. He had lost both his parents in the death camps, and had a heart attack in 1949, from which he never recovered. Conradi finds elements of him in Peter Seward in *The Flight from the Enchanter*, which, though it was published in 1956, was actually written before her first published novel, *Under the Net* (1954). Her social circle included many refugees, including Elias Canetti. Of the three

well-known Hungarians, she disliked Arthur Koestler, while she was fond of Thomas Balogh and Nicholas Kaldor.

Though Murdoch became a philosopher, she had thought seriously about becoming an art historian – she made an intense study of Renaissance pictures, and all her life she looked at pictures in a way rare among non-specialists. It is not well known, but she herself had painted at school and during the war. So it was not so odd that on leaving St Anne's she went from 1963 to the Royal College of Art, where she was invited by Christopher Cornford to teach the general studies course. One often meets artists lucky enough to have been taught by her, such as the successful painter Bill Jacklin. At the Royal College, Murdoch was the contemporary of Janie Ironside and Humphrey Spender. In

1967 she left, and went on to write 27 novels, some plays, poems and philosophical treatises.

In the spring of 1963 she met John Bayley, then a very junior instructor in English at St Antony's College, Oxford. She was in the midst of much emotional turmoil and, as she later said to the novelist A.S. Byatt in a moment of retrospection, “Why should I be cheated of happiness?” She wasn't. In August 1966 they began what became a legendary happy marriage. They were the subject of endless anecdotes – from John gossiping to one lunch guest while Iris explained Sartre to another, to the weekend host who, taking a tea tray to their bedroom, found Iris learning German irregular verbs while John flipped through the pages of a downmarket women's magazine. Or John would tell a confidant, “I don't like cats, but Iris does”, while the

same person would receive a confidence from Iris that she didn't like cats, but John did. Iris was not much of a cook, though she was proud of her stufado, a Greek dish of beef, olives, tomatoes, wine and vinegar.

The Bayleys were enormous fun to be with, together and separately, and were much loved by friends such as Lord David Cecil, Christopher and Baillie Tolkien and Andrew (A.N.) Wilson. For many years they lived in a large, undisciplined house at Steeple Aston, with stacks of books in unlikely places and a sink full of washing up. In later years Iris's appearance got more and more eccentric. She often wore one particularly beautiful item of clothing, such as a scarf, and walked about in pilmoolls, which eased the pain of her arthritis. She was thus shod in 1987 when she went to Buckingham Palace to be invested DBE.

Peter Conradi tells how he learned in yoga classes how to stand on his head. One day in 1984, having lunch in Dino's, he offered to show her on the spot. She tensed up a little, and Conradi desisted, but the episode was incorporated into *The Good Apprentice* published the next year. Her novels were never romances à la clef, but there are recognisable portraits of people she knew, especially in the early novels. But when friends thought they had been drawn on for a character in one of her novels, she said on a radio programme, “it was generally vainly”.

Murdoch won a vast number of prizes, from the James Tait Black Memorial Prize to the Booker Prize, and was even rumoured to have been nominated for the Nobel Prize. She also collected a large number of honorary degrees. She was faithful to her publishers, Chatto & Windus, but would not allow so much as a comma to be changed in her hand-written manuscripts. After she took on Ed Victor as her literary agent, her royalties became considerable – it has been said that she gave most of them away.

Despite her obvious goodness, Murdoch was modest and self-effacing. John Russell tells the story of someone asking her if it was true that a biography of her was being written: “Yes, it was, she said, much to her surprise: that she might be the subject of an almost universal curiosity had never occurred to her. ‘I don't read biographies, but apparently people buy them. But me? What is there to say about me?’” She was, however, despite her idiosyncratic appearance, enormously attractive. She had the ability to fix her gaze upon you with complete concentration, in the way a child does. It suited her unworldliness that she was interested in Buddhism, and hoped mankind might one day evolve a non-supernatural religion.

In her last years she suffered from Alzheimer's disease, and was tenderly nursed at home in their very un-donnish North Oxford house by John Bayley, until, three weeks ago, it became impossible to care for her singlehandedly, and she went into the Vale, a nursing home that specialises in Alzheimer's patients. She was able to socialise, after a fashion, almost up to the end. As John Bayley says in his recently published, loving memoir *Iris*, she became like a child, mostly docile and very affectionate. Friends first noticed something was wrong about 1985, about the time of the publication of her last novel, *Jackson's Dilemma*. I asked her then if she had, as was her habit, begun to think about her next book. She said: “I don't think there will be another one.” Her friends knew she was having memory difficulties, but I was surprised that she was so final about it, and I asked what she would do with her time: “Read,” she said, “and sing.”

John Bayley had the help of some devoted friends, especially Peter Conradi and Jim O'Neill. Iris and John often went to their cottage in Wales, even late on in her disease. To the end, Iris retained her bright smile, greeting and seeming to recognise those who loved her. Having refused food and drink, she simply faded, peacefully, with John at her side.

PAUL LEVY

Jean Iris Murdoch, novelist and philosopher, born Dublin 15 July 1919; Fellow, St Anne's College, Oxford 1948-99; FRSL 1958; CBE 1976, DBE 1987; CLEI 1987; married 1966 John Bayley; died Oxford 8 February 1999.

General Krishnaswami Sundarji

KRISHNASWAMI SUNDARJI was India's most brilliant, ambitious and controversial chief of army staff, who during a little over two years in office committed the army to a disastrous peace-keeping campaign in Sri Lanka and on at least two occasions brought India close to war with Pakistan and China. Known as the “thinking general”, the whisky-sipping Sundarji also raised the mechanised infantry regiment and was responsible for re-organising the army's functioning and laborious equipment procurement policies.

But Sundarji was vilified for committing the expeditionary Indian Peace Keeping Force, the IPKF, to Sri Lanka to disarm Tamil Tiger rebels fighting for independence following a bilateral treaty between the two neighbours in 1987. Armed with little or no intelligence regarding the rebels, the Indian army walked into a virtual trap laid by the highly committed Tigers in the north and east of the island. It took the IPKF over two years to extricate itself from Sri Lanka having failed in its mission, but only after suffering an unusually high casualty rate and covering itself with ignominy.

The irrepressible Sundarji also organised Operation Brasstacks, India's largest ever military exercise

in the late 1980s, in northern and western India, seriously raising tensions with Pakistan who feared an attack under the guise of peacetime manoeuvres. Brasstacks was aimed at cutting the southern Pakistani province of Sindh in two to make it easy for India to thrust into Pakistan's heartland of Punjab.

Sundarji also planned a covert, albeit cynical, winter offensive against Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in which he was willing to take an exceptionally high casualty rate in snowbound, inhospitable terrain at heights of over 14,000 feet to resolve the Kashmir dispute over which the nuclear-capable neighbours have fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947. He achieved the near impossible task of ferrying tanks to a height of nearly 13,000 feet for the bold operation but at the last minute was ordered to call it off by the perspicacious Rajiv Gandhi.

Fighting also escalated during Sundarji's tenure as army chief along the 20,000-foot-high Siachen glacier, the world's highest battle ground, claimed by both India and Pakistan, where hundreds of soldiers have died since the early 1980s in cross-border firing and from exposure to temperatures that average 30 degrees Celsius below freezing.



‘I have to aim for the moon’

Nearly two Indian soldiers die every day on Siachen as the posts they occupy are higher and colder than those held by Pakistan.

The confrontation over Siachen is a financial burden for both sides, totalling around \$2m a day. India's outlay, however, is higher as everything is flown in by helicopter. According to official estimates one chapatti (unleavened bread), staple food for soldiers, costs over 12 rupees (16 pence), or 80 times its normal cost.

Sundarji also raised the ante with China – with whom India fought

a disastrous war in 1962 over a territorial dispute that remains unresolved – during two exercises, Operation Checker Board and the follow-on Operation Falcon along the eastern front in the late 1960s.

He strongly advocated India becoming a nuclear weapon state, frequently detailing in newspapers and at seminars the exact number of missiles it would need to build an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction to deal with Pakistan and China.

In 1984, as head of Western Command, Sundarji planned Operation Bluestar to flush out armed Sikh separatists hiding in the Golden Temple in Sikhism's holy city of Amritsar in the north. The disastrously executed operation in which over 500 people including around 80 soldiers and scores of women and children died, ended after 72 hours of fierce fighting when tanks were brought in.

Operation Woderose, the mop-up exercise that followed to apprehend terrorists across Punjab state, alienated the entire Sikh population. It led eventually to the assassination of the prime minister Indira Gandhi by her two Sikh bodyguards in October 1984 followed by the anti-Sikh pogrom in Delhi and other north Indian cities in which over 5,000 people – mainly Sikhs – were murdered.

But Sundarji was involved in controversies other than operational. He was a major player in the import of 410 howitzers from Sweden in the mid-1980s in which kickbacks of over \$200m were allegedly paid to Indian officials and politicians. The complex Bofors case, which is still under investigation, led to the downfall of Rajiv Gandhi's Congress government and tarnished the image of India's military, considered till then to be above corruption.

Born into a high-caste Brahmin family in southern India in 1928, Sundarji graduated from Madras Christian College and joined the British-Indian army in 1945, two years before independence. He was commissioned into the prestigious Mahar infantry regiment a year later and posted to the North West Frontier Province (now in Pakistan) to quell restive Pathan tribesmen forever at war with the colonial administration. Thereafter he was posted to the disputed, northern Kashmir state of which Pakistan forcibly occupied a third in 1947 before it was halted by the Indian army.

He attended the Defence Services Staff College at Wellington in southern India in 1959 and after a series of command and staff postings was part of the United Nations armed contin-

gent to the Congo in the early Sixties. As chief of staff of the Katanga command combating rebels, he was mentioned in dispatches for gallantry.

On returning home in 1963 Sundarji took command of an infantry battalion and participated in the second war with Pakistan in 1965, again over Kashmir. A tenure as instructor at the Staff College, Wellington was followed by the US Army Command and General Staff course at Fort Leavenworth. He graduated from the National Defence College in Delhi in 1971 and was posted as brigadier, General Staff of a corps involved in the 1971 operations against the Pakistani army in East Pakistan that broke away to become Bangladesh.

In 1976 Sundarji became the first infantry officer to command an armoured division. During his three-year tenure he realised his ambition of raising the desperately needed mechanised infantry regiment and was a forceful member of the committee reorganising the army before being promoted to lieutenant-general and becoming deputy chief of army staff. After two years as general officer commanding-in-chief Western Command during which he planned Operation Bluestar, Sundarji became vice-chief of army staff then chief in 1986.

Till he retired 36 months later he did more than any army chief before or after. Criticised by many for his naked ambition and aggression, Sundarji's simple answer was “I have to aim for the moon”. After retirement he completed his masters in defence studies at Madras University and remained in the limelight by admitting that he had been pressured to opt for the Swedish howitzer by the government. In his 1993 book *Blind Men of Hindoostan – Indo-Pak nuclear war*, he wrote a fictional account of a nuclear war between the two neighbours that came chillingly close to reality.

An engaging and charming conversationalist Krishnaswami Sundarji was a keen gardener and a wild-life enthusiast who lived under “Z”, the highest category of security, surrounded by army commandos for his involvement in Operation Bluestar and in Sri Lanka.

KULDIP SINGH

Krishnaswami Sundarji, soldier, born 30 April 1928; Deputy Chief of Army Staff 1981-82; general officer commanding-in-chief, Western Command 1983-86; vice-chief of army staff 1985-86; army chief 1986-88; married (one son, one daughter); died New Delhi 8 February 1999.

Anne Spoerry

NO ONE meeting Anne Spoerry – physician, aviator and adventurer – could forget her two greatest attributes: a heart of gold and the Big Voice she always wrote of with capital letters and which she developed specially, as she put it, “to get things done”.

In 1964, in Kenya, Spoerry put both characteristics to good service when she offered her medical experience and a newly acquired Piper Cherokee 235 to what was then known as the Flying Doctor Service. She had learned to fly just a year earlier when she was already 45. Her offering doubled the fledgling organisation’s flying capacity which until then had depended entirely on the founder’s own small aeroplane.

For more than 20 years afterwards, Spoerry organised fund-raising, medical training and immunisation programmes as well as conducting regular flying-doctor clinics under the shady wing of her little plane all over Kenya’s northern district and around Lamu as far as the Somali border. If Amref, as the Flying Doctors’ Service is now known, is the successful organisation it is today, it is in large measure thanks to Spoerry’s cheerful and energetic presence, her generous (though little-trumpeted) financial contribution and her Big Voice.

Anne Spoerry was born into a comfortable Alsace family that had moved from Switzerland to Mulhouse in 1848 to begin a textile business. She spoke fluent French, German and English, thanks first to an English governess and later to the two years she spent in London at Francis Holland School, Graham Terrace. Although she had once dreamed of studying history of art at Oxford, in 1938 she began a year-long pre-med course at the Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris. That same year, she and a group of fellow medical students embarked on a two-week cruise of Greece and the eastern Mediterranean, whetting her appetite for travelling which would lead her, nearly 10 years later, to Kenya.

Unwilling to allow the outbreak of the Second World War to interrupt her studies, Spoerry found by 1940 that she was the only member of her family left living in the occupied zone. Her parents had moved to their holiday home at Partigon, while her brother François, who would later make his name as an architect and developer of Port Grimaud, the lagoon village in the bay of St-Tropez, was also in the south working with Jean Bernard, the Resistance leader in the South of France who was so close to the Special Operations Executive.

Anne Spoerry joined the team, and while her brother used an architectural research project in Aix-en-Provence to shield his work for the Resistance, Anne ran a safe house in Paris from which she looked after the SOE operatives sent there from London. In April 1944 she was arrested a few days after her brother. She spent the remainder of the war incarcerated in a German concentration camp in Ravensbrück, where she was eventually freed by the Swedish Red Cross just days before Hitler’s suicide.

After the war ended, it was François Spoerry’s marriage to Joy Besse, the daughter of a neighbour in Partigon, that



Spoerry, left, at work for the Flying Doctor Service, near Nairobi, in 1986. Corbis / Yann Arthus-Bertrand

set Anne Spoerry on the path to Kenya. Joy’s father, Antonin Besse, was a wealthy merchant with a large and expanding business centred on Aden and Beirut (he was also a great philanthropist; he founded St Antony’s College, Oxford, and saved Gordonstoun from closure in the mid-1950s). Having rounded off her medical studies with a year in Basle, obtaining a Diploma in Tropical Medicine, in 1948 Spoerry sailed for Aden, where she found work first on a pilgrim ship belonging to Antonin Besse

the company of a hull terrier named Winny after Winston Churchill. She soon, too, bought a farm close by, and began playing polo and hunting to hounds. Spoerry lived through the Mau Mau at Ol Kalou, during which she nursed whites and Africans alike (and took time to found Ol Kalou’s first troop of Girl Guides). But, when Kenya became independent, all the farms owned by whites around Ol Kalou were compulsorily purchased for redistribution under the “Million-Acre” scheme.

Every five weeks, she made a long circuit, treating spear and gunshot wounds, and infectious diseases, as well as dispensing advice on family planning and immunisation. Over an area covering tens of thousands of square miles, Anne Spoerry became known as “Mama Dakarti”.

Over an area of north-east Kenya covering tens of thousands of square miles, she became known as ‘Mama Dakarti’

and later in the women’s section of the local hospital. She visited Ethiopia and, eventually, Kenya, where she had friends. During a second visit to Kenya in 1960, she became determined to stay. The government medical service was reluctant to take on a woman doctor, especially an unmarried one. But she soon learned that the farmers at Ol Kalou, in the Rift Valley, had founded a co-operative to be able to afford the services of a full-time doctor. At the age of 32, Spoerry had her first African medical job, covering 60 farms in a little Peugeot 203 station wagon with

She was already taking flying lessons at a small airfield 30 miles north of Ol Kalou, at Subukia, and she bought another small farm there where she began spending weekends. During the week, her flying took her to Nairobi, where Michael Wood, a British plastic surgeon who had studied under Archibald McIndoe, invited her to join the newly established Flying Doctors of East Africa, later renamed Amref (African Medical Research Foundation).

Her first job was to start up regular flying clinics in the north-east of Kenya. Anne Spoerry, medical practitioner, born Cannes, France 13 May 1918; died Nairobi 2 February 1999.

King Hussein of Jordan

IN YOUR obituary of King Hussein (by Philip Mansel, 8 February), you are wrong in attributing the so-called coup of 13 April 1957 to Maan Abu Nuwar, writes Major-General James Lunt. This mistake is easily explained.

The Abu Nuwar family come from Salt and there were several branches, Maan belonging to one, his cousin Ali Abu Nuwar to another. Both were serving officers in the Arab Legion (Jordan’s army in those days); Maan in

the rank of colonel was commanding the infantry brigade in Zerga. Ali was a favourite of the young king, who had promoted him from lieutenant colonel to major-general in a few short months and appointed him Chief of the General Staff. When fighting broke out in Zerga, Maan asked for help from the king, who went there, taking Ali with him.

One of Maan’s battalions was under orders to take part in an exercise out in the desert. It was readily assumed

that this was intended to get the battalion out of the way while the coup took place, but Maan was able to show that the exercise had been planned for many weeks. On arrival at Zerga the king was greeted enthusiastically. He had dismissed Ali and sent him back to Amman; Ali had lost his nerve.

Later Ali went into exile in Cairo with his family. It was typical of King Hussein that when, some years later, it was rumoured that Ali’s life was in danger, he sent a plane to bring him back to Jordan, where he settled down as a businessman. The king never employed him again and he died a few years ago.

Maan went on to become a government minister, Chief of Police, Mayor of Amman, Minister in London, and a senator; a devoted subject of the king and highly respected.

The Independent and Philip Mansel apologise unreservedly for any distress caused by this confusion to Maan Abu Nuwar and his family.

FIAMMETTA ROCCO

GAZETTE

BIRTHS
JEWELL/TERRINGTON: To Sarah and Andy, a son, Barnaby William, a brother for a delighted Benedict and Isabella, born at home on Wednesday 3 February (10.10.99).

DEATHS
KERSLEY: Mrs Janet, see SINCLAIR.

SINCLAIR: Janet McLaren, author and ballet critic, died comfortably at home on Friday 5 February 1999. Funeral was held at home on Wednesday 3 February 1999 attended by Alex, John and Leo. Memorial celebration will be arranged. Donations in memory of Janet for her favoured charity c/o Mr Ed Nickless, 13 Home Close, Harlow, Essex CM20 3PD.

LECTURES
Victoria and Albert Museum: Gracia Lahuente, “Messages in Photography”, 2pm.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS
WARD: Simon, died suddenly at Croft House Nursing Home on Monday 8 February 1999 aged 45 years. Husband of Mandy, loving father of Charlotte, Alex and Ed, son of Mary and the late Neville Ward. Will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Mary’s Church, Little Dunmow on Monday 15 February at 11am. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to “Chest, Heart and Stroke Association”, c/o Daniel Robinson and Sons Ltd, Bassiers Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex CM8 1XS.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £2.50 a line, VAT extra.

Gresham College, at the London Oratory School, London SW6: Professor Roger Penrose, “Impossible Crystalline Patterns and How to Construct Them”, 5.30pm.

BIRTHDAYS
Mr Larry Adler, mouth organist, 88; Mr Robert Alston, High Commissioner to New Zealand, 61; Mr Michael Apted, film director, 58; Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, former Chief of the General Staff, 72; Mr Peter Benson, former company chairman, 82; Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, British Midland plc, 57; Miss Olwyn Bowey, landscape and portrait painter, 63; Dr Alexander Comfort, physician, poet and novelist, 79; Miss Roberta Flack, singer, 61; Field Marshal Lord Milne, 90; Mr Greg Norman, golfer, 44; Lord Ovi-Ewing, former MP, 87; Mr Nicholas Owen, television presenter and correspondent, 52; Gp Capt Sir Gordon Pirie, former Mayor of Westminster, 80; Miss Leontyne Price, soprano, 72; Sir Idwal Pugh, former chairman, Chartered Trust, 81; Sir Christopher Rose, a

Lord Justice of Appeal, 62; Mr Mark Spitz, swimmer, 49; Mr Robert Wagner, actor, 69.

ANNIVERSARIES
Births: Boris Leonidovich Pasternak, novelist, 1890; Jimmy (James Francis) “Schnozzola” Durante, comedian, 1893; Maurice Harold Macmillan, first Earl of Stockton, statesman and publisher, 1894; Bertolt Brecht (Eugen Berthold Friedrich), playwright and poet, 1898; Joyce Irene Grenfell, actress, writer and entertainer, 1910. Deaths: Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin, author, 1837; Edgar Richard Horatio Wallace, thriller writer, 1932. On this day: “Pay As You Earn” income tax was introduced, 1944. Today is the Feast Day of St Austreberta, St Scholastica, St Soteris, St Trumwin and St William of Maleval.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Prince of Wales opens the General Osteopathic Council Building, Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1. The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visits the Scottish Apparel Group, Portland Place, London W1; as Patron, the Home Farm Trust, attends a meeting at Mithldeith Electric plc, Kiernan Cross, London WC2; as President, Royal Yachting Association, attends a Council Meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, London SW1; and presents the Whitley Award Scheme for International Conservation awards at the Royal Geographical Society, London SW7. Princess Margaret, President, the Birmingham Royal Ballet, attends the London premiere of The Prospect Before Us and The Projecting Veil at the new Sadler’s Wells Theatre, London EC1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen’s Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards changes the Queen’s Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

IN AN action for negligence against a solicitor an order for substituted service under RSC Order 65, rule 4 might be made on the Solicitors Indemnity Fund if the solicitor’s whereabouts were unknown, and there was no likelihood that the writ would reach him or come to his knowledge.

The defendant was a solicitor in sole practice who had acted for the plaintiff building society and its borrower in relation to a loan secured on a leasehold flat. The purchase was in truth a sub-purchase, and in October 1992, the borrower having defaulted in making the mortgage payments, the plaintiff resold the flat for less than half the amount of the loan.

The plaintiff commenced proceedings against the defendant, alleging negligence and breach of fiduciary duty. The defendant had by that time been struck off the roll of solicitors for conduct unconnected with the plaintiff’s claim. Apart from a belief that the defendant was living in Thailand, nothing was known about his current whereabouts. The plaintiff was granted an order for substituted service pursuant to RSC Order 65, rule 4 on the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF).

The SIF’s application to have the order for substituted service set aside was refused by the master, and the SIF appealed to the judge, relying on Porter v Freudenberg [1915] 1 KB 857 as establishing a general rule that substituted service would not be ordered where the defendant’s whereabouts were unknown and where there was no likelihood

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT
10 FEBRUARY 1999

Abbey National plc v Frost (formerly practising as Harold Weston Frost & Co) (Solicitors Indemnity Fund intervening)
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker)
4 February 1999

that the writ would reach him or come to his knowledge. The judge allowed the appeal, and the plaintiff appealed.

Rupert Jackson QC and Andrew Goodman (Curtis & Parkinson, Nottingham) for the plaintiff; Richard Seymour QC and Matthew Jackson (Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave) for the SIF.

Lord Justice Nourse said that at the time that Porter v Freudenberg was decided, an order for substituted service could only be made under the rules then in force if the plaintiff was unable, from any cause, to effect prompt personal service.

By way of supplement to the rules, the King’s Bench masters had settled and adopted a number of principles according to which their discretion would usually be exercised, one of which was that substituted service should not generally be ordered if the

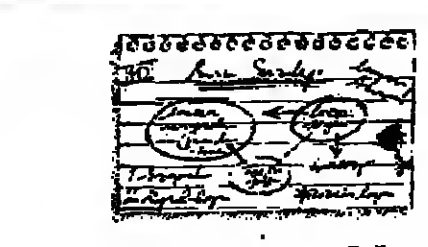
writ was not likely to reach the defendant or come to his knowledge.

In the circumstances of Porter v Freudenberg it was natural for the court to have expressed itself in the form of a general rule; however, expressions of opinion, no matter how eminent their source, should always be read in the light of the particular facts which occasioned them. The views expressed in that case could not be treated as having narrowed the discretion under what was now Order 65, rule 4(1) in relation to other facts.

Furthermore, under the rule in force in 1915, the court’s discretion to make such order as might seem just arose after the precondition that the plaintiff should have been unable to effect prompt personal service had been fulfilled; the second precondition derived only from a principle of discretion adopted by the masters, and it would have been incorrect to treat it as incorporated in the rule itself.

In the present case, the master had been correct in holding that, given that the purpose of the SIF was to safeguard the lay public and to protect the interests of members of the public resorting to solicitors, it was perfectly proper in suitable cases for an order for substituted service to be made on the SIF. A case was not rendered unsuitable for substituted service simply because the defendant solicitor’s whereabouts were unknown and there was no likelihood that the writ would reach him or come to his knowledge.

KATE O’HANLON, Barrister



EDUCATIONAL NOTES

IAN COPELAND

Idiots, imbeciles and backward pupils

AS A result of legislation in England between 1870 and 1890 the number of pupils in elementary schools rapidly increased nearly threefold to almost five million. Attendance became compulsory and for many families this was the first sustained experience of school. Class sizes were large (not until 1909 was a maximum of 60 decreed), the curriculum was rigid, the teaching mechanical and the whole system policed by payment by results through examinations in the 3Rs.

By the mid-1880s elementary education was in crisis. A Royal Commission was established to tackle the issue. By chance another Royal Commission was also set up to consider the education of the blind, the deaf and dumb and other “exceptional” children. The backward pupil was one of these exceptions.

There was a dispute in the Commission regarding the origins of backward pupils. Dr George Shuttleworth, a superintendent of an asylum for idiots and imbeciles, regarded educable imbeciles as less deficient than idiots who were considered ineducable. In his view, idiosyncrasy and imbecility were personal characteristics.

On the other hand, Dr Francis Warner, a paediatrician who had examined thousands of London pupils as out-patients, gave the causes as malnutrition, poor eyesight, deafness, respiratory infections, nervousness and

loss of a parent or parents. He pointed to poverty and poor housing as being the origins of the backward pupil.

Legislation for the education of the blind and the deaf followed the Commission’s report in 1893 and further consideration of the backward pupil was referred to a committee of the Education Department. This Committee consisted of seven members: a member of an association for the care of the feeble-minded, three persons associated with the London authority and three HMIs. The department’s senior staff were customarily elite Oxbridge graduates. In the published view of the then department secretary, staff were ignorant of and indifferent to the working of elementary schools.

Shuttleworth and London’s medical officer were called upon to present the definition of backwardness. They confidently repeated the contingent definition of idiots being more deficient than imbeciles. Such a definition is faulty because it has no external reference such as the population at large. However, the definition was accepted and repeated in the committee’s report. It also featured in the first section of the Permissive Legislation enacted in 1899.

The Education Department policed the proposals for the education of backward pupils and London’s model of segregated special schools became the norm enforced by

the department. The basic definition of a backward pupil may have been faulty but its validity became reified in segregated special schools.

The years before the First World War witnessed a switch in demographic transition to a low birth-rate in middle-class groups but a continuing high rate amongst the lower socio-economic classes. Such circumstances were fertile ground for the eugenicist movement and the “moral imbecile” emerged from legislation in 1913. The moral imbecile described the boy who was quick with his school work but a persistent thief or the girl who became pregnant; the moral imbecile was simultaneously adjudged normal but abnormal.

The permissive legislation of 1899 was made obligatory in an Education Act of 1914. Who then were the backward pupils? For the most part, children from lower socio-economic classes whose parents were alien to education. Why were they so? Primarily through poverty, poor housing and ill-health compounded by the nature of the education system with its large classes and mechanical teaching methods. Their divorce from the mainstream provision was buttressed by a faulty definition of their condition.

Ian Copeland is author of *The Making of the Backward Pupil in Education in England, 1870-1914* (Woburn Press, £51/£22.50)

Order for substitute service granted

IT SOUNDS unduly cloacal. Elyse Kaye of Haggerty Enterprises, Inc. complains that I wrote of “Lava World International” Haggerty Enterprises’ product... the Lava brand motion lamp, which you referred to as a “lava lamp”... it is important that our product be referred to as the Lava brand motion lamp.

WORDS
CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
motion lamp, n.

We realise that may seem like quite a mouthful, yet we want to ensure that in the future your publication doesn’t refer to any product

as a ‘lava lamp’, not even ours.”

In fact, I was quoting a splendid Lorrie Moore story. Is Ms Kaye an A.N. Wilson practical joke? No, Haggerty exists, and “lava lamp” is not in the OED (but is in OUP’s Canadian dictionary). What a job, to scour the world’s press for lava lamps – and get in a lather.

I was a Tantric sex slave

For years June Campbell was the 'consort' of a senior Tibetan Buddhist monk. She was threatened with death if she broke her vow of secrecy. But then enlightenment can be like that. By Paul Valley

Fest of clay? No, it was a different part of the anatomy - and of all too fleshy substance - which caused the trouble. But, I suppose, you don't expect Tantric sex to be a straightforward activity. Then again, sex of any kind isn't really what you're planning when you become a celibate nun.

It was, said June Campbell as she began her lecture, only the second time she had been asked to give a talk to a Buddhist group in this country since her book, *Traveller in Space*, came out three years ago. Small wonder: The topic of her talk was "Dissent in Spiritual Communities", and you don't get much more potent types of dissent than hers. For she not only revealed that she had for years been the secret sexual consort of one of the most holy monks in Tibetan Buddhism - the tulku (re-incarnated lama), Kalu Rinpoche. She also insisted that the abuse of power at the heart of the relationship exposed a flaw at the very heart of Tibetan Buddhism.

This was heresy, indeed. To outsiders, the Rinpoche was one of the most revered yogi-lamas in exile outside Tibet. As abbot of his own monastery, he had taken vows of celibacy and was celebrated for having spent 14 years in solitary retreat. Among his students were the highest-ranking lamas in Tibet. "His own status was unquestioned in the Tibetan community," said Ms Campbell, "and his holiness attested to by all."

The inner circles of the world of Tibetan Buddhism - for all its spread in fashionable circles in the West - is a closed and tight one. Her claims, though made in a restrained way in the context of a deeply academic book entitled "In Search of Female Identity in Tibetan Buddhism", provoked what she described as a primitive outpouring of rage and fury. "I was reviled as a liar or a demon," she said during a public lecture last week at the non-sectarian College for Buddhist Studies in Sharpham, Devon. "In that world he was a saintly figure. It was like claiming that Mother Teresa was involved in making porn movies."

But it was not fear of the response which made her wait a full 18 years before publishing her revelations in a volume entitled *Traveller in Space* - a translation of dakin, the rather poetic Tibetan word for a woman used by a lama for sex. It took her that long to get over the trauma of the experience. "I spent 11 years without talking about it and then, when I had decided to write about it, another seven years researching. I wanted to weave together my personal experience with a more theoretical understanding of the role of women in Tibetan society to help me make sense of what had happened to me."

What happened was that, having become a Buddhist in her native Scotland in the hippie Sixties, she travelled to India where she became a nun. She spent 10 years in a Tibetan monastery and penetrated more deeply than any



An 18th-19th century sculpture of the Tantric characters Hejvari and Cakti Charles Lenars/Corbis

other Westerner into the faith's esoteric hierarchy. Eventually she became personal translator to the guru as, during the Seventies, he travelled through Europe and America. It was after that, she said, that "he requested that I become his sexual consort and take part in secret activities with him."

Only one other person knew of the relationship - a second monk - with whom she took part in what she described as a polyandrous Tibetan-style relationship. "It was some years before I realised that the extent to which I had been taken advantage of constituted a kind of abuse."

The practice of Tantric sex is more ancient than Buddhism. The idea goes back to the ancient Hindus who believed that the retention of semen during intercourse increased sexual pleasure and made men live longer. The Tibetan Buddhists developed the belief that enlightenment could be accelerated by the decision "to enlist the passions in one's religious practice, rather than to avoid them". The strategy is considered extremely risky yet so efficacious that it could lead to

enlightenment in one lifetime. Monks of a lower status confined themselves to visualising an imaginary sexual relationship during meditation. But, her book sets out, the "masters" reach a point where they decide that they can engage in sex without

'The reverse of ordinary sex expresses the relative status of the male and female within the ritual'

being tainted by it. The instructions in the so-called "secret" texts spell out the methods which enable the man to control the flow of semen through yogic breath control and other practices. The idea is to "drive the semen upwards, along the spine, and into the head". The more semen in a man's head, the stronger intellectually and

spiritually he is thought to be.

More than that, he is said to gain additional strength from absorbing the woman's sexual fluids at the same time as withholding his own. This "reverse of ordinary sex", said June Campbell, "expresses the relative status of the male and female within the ritual, for it signals the power flowing from the woman to the man."

The imbalance is underscored by the insistence by such guru-lamas that their sexual consorts must remain secret, allowing the lamas to maintain control over the women. "Since the book was published, I've had letters from women all over the world with similar and worse experiences."

So why did she stay for almost three years? "Personal prestige. The women believe that they too are special and holy. They are entering sacred space. It produces good karma for future lives, and is a test of faith."

The combination of religion, sex, power and secrecy can have a potent effect. It creates the Catch 22 of psychological blackmail set out in the words of another lama, Beru Kyentze

Rinpoche: "If your guru acts in a seemingly unenlightened manner and you feel it would be hypocritical to think him a Buddha, you should remember that your own opinions are unreliable and the apparent faults you see may only be a reflection of your own deluded state of mind... If your guru acted in a completely perfect manner he would be inaccessible and you would be able to relate to him. It is therefore out of your guru's great compassion that he may show apparent flaws... He is mirroring your own faults."

The psychological pressure is often increased by making the woman swear vows of secrecy. In addition, June Campbell was told that "madness, trouble or even death" could follow if she did not keep silent.

"I was told that in a previous life the lama I was involved with had had a mistress who caused him some trouble, and in order to get rid of her he cast a spell which caused her illness, later resulting in her death."

There are those Buddhists, like Martine Batchelor - who spent 10 years as a Zen Buddhist nun in a Korean monastery and who now teaches at Sharpham College - who insist the religious techniques the Buddha taught can be separated from the sexist, patriarchal and oppressive culture of many Buddhist countries. But June Campbell is not convinced.

"You have to ask what is the relationship between belief and how a society structures itself," she said. In Tibetanism, power lies in the hands of men who have often been traumatised by being removed from their mothers at the age of two and taken to an all-male monastery. "Some were allowed visits from their mothers and sisters but always in secrecy - so that they came to associate women with what must be hidden."

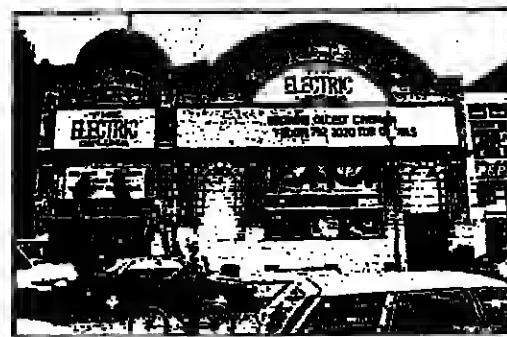
But there is more to it, she believes, than that. Teaching at Sharpham last week she gave the students a whole range of material about different kinds of feminism - from the political to the psychotherapeutic. She then asked them how it relates to the fact that there are no female Buddha images, or to why in Tantric sex images the woman always has her back to the viewer, or to why Buddhist women are told to pray that they will be reborn into a male body in their next life - for only in a man's body can they attain full enlightenment.

"Once I started unravelling my experiences, I began to question everything," she said. That meant not just the actions of a particular guru, but the very idea of the guru. She began to wonder whether the Tantra was just a fantasy, and whether there is really any difference between Tantric sex and ordinary sex. She questioned the very concept of enlightenment itself and the practice of meditation. "I realised that in order to be myself I had to leave it all - completely and utterly."

'Traveller in Space' is published by The Athlone Press at £17.99

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

29. ARTHOUSE CINEMAS
BY EMMA COOK



THEY ARE a Mecca for the highbrow middle-classes. They can be twee and trendy, like London's Ritzy, Screen On The Green and Coronet, or as wholesome as brown bread, the National Film Theatre. Either way, they're no fun. Arthouse cinemas are elite clubs for those "fans" who believe that film is wasted on the masses. Or, at least, unwatchable alongside them. As liberal, Godard-loving types, they'd probably deny it, yet this lot would rather burn their Pauline Kael than sit through *Titanic* at their local multiplex.

"People eat popcorn all the time and they always talk," whinges an NFT aficionado who once said he wished that entry to arthouse cinemas could be more rigorous - such as a film-knowledge test for a year's membership.

He last stepped into his local Odeon two years ago. It was such a traumatic experience, he's never been near one since. "It had that awful sickly, saccharine smell in the foyer. And people laughed when it wasn't even funny. Well, it was Hal Hartley. (Note: Arthouse cinema humour has to be ironic, extremely referential and deeply disapproving of films like *There's Something About Mary* and *Dumb and Dumber*. Until they decide to run a Farrelly brothers retrospective in, oh, about five years' time.)"

And so, my friend scuttles back to the film-as-art cocoon that is the NFT; to a worthy diet of Fassbinder retrospectives, carrot-cake and coffee. No Pearl & Dean. No plush purple seats with plastic drink-holders. Instead, there's Scandinavian-style wooden floors, hard seating to stop you nodding off during that new Eisenstein print,

perhaps, carrot-cake and the resonant aroma of stale black coffee.

I can barely drag myself into the foyer of these places without feeling as though I'm back at school and being forced to attend a double maths lesson. Perhaps it's that whiff of "film-as-education" that galls; those limp NFT screening notes that cobble together some outdated reviews. Or is it the lacklustre foyer-chat among earnest trendies in little round glasses and pointy beards? Who'd want to spend a Saturday night with this lot and a load of subtitles?

A certain sort of one-upmanship also comes with the territory. "You must go and see Abel Gance's *Napoléon*. It's silent, but they had this wonderful pianist..." And then there's the little matter of what they screen; almost always retrospectives; Fassbinder, Hitchcock, Bergman and the like. Classics, maybe. But there's little diversity and even less risk - the recent *Carry On* season at the NFT, for example, reeked of tokenism.

It's not the choice of films that really irks, but the attitudes that run alongside. For some reason, arthouse cinemas and their audiences just can't bear the American instinct for popular entertainment. It's a sorry contradiction, since these places owe their being to commercial cinema. Yet the arthouse theatre will always be a retreat for purists who believe that comfort and frivolity doesn't figure in film aesthetics. Only the British could reduce something so pleasurable into such an earnest and worthy pastime. Pass the popcorn, somebody, and, please, spare me the carrot cake.

No more patrons pending

The Royals are giving up the free gaspers. What else can they do without? By Nick Lezard

THERE'S SOMETHING comforting about a royal warrant. One of the nice things about the honorific was the way it brought the Queen into your own home. You could look at a jar of Robertson's jam and know that, if she ever came round for tea, your crumpets wouldn't make her feel depressed and homesick.

It also brought you into the Royal Household. There are more than 1,000 products with the royal warrant, including Brasso. It's made by Reckitt & Colman of London, which also makes air fresheners and laundry products. Goddard's Long Term Silver Polish, too. And they both say "By appointment to Her Majesty the Queen", so you know that it really is the Queen who polishes the silver on Sunday evenings while watching the telly.

It was the idea that the Queen was human - in express contradiction to her constitutional position as head of state - that made the royal warrant appealing even to republicans like myself. And so the removal of the royal warrant from packets of Benson & Hedges, Silk Cut, and other tobacco products made by Gallaher, is rather saddening. We could imagine The Firm of an evening, puffing on their fags, drinking Brasso from crystal glasses and pouring gin on the dogs, and imagine a vital link between ourselves and our ruling family. If the Queen drinks/smokes/spreads this fish paste on her toast, it can't be bad for you, can it?



'If a princess smoked this brand, it can't be bad for you, can it?' Nunn Syndication

Of course, there is no rule that a royal warrant is going to guarantee commercial success. Hatchards lost to have a royal warrant but lost it when they started selling what one newspaper describes as "soft pornography", whatever that means; anyway, it would appear that the royals don't buy books from anyone any more.

The problem with the Royal Family is that since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales it has suddenly become keen on the idea of bringing itself up to date. And while there is a rationale behind withdrawal of the royal warrant - that members of the family and their

guests don't touch the weed any more - the withdrawal of the warrant from Gallaher appears to be very much in touch with the spirit of the times: this is one family desperate to at least look, sound and smell modern.

The irony being, of course, that if the Royal Family really wanted to modernise itself, it'd stop being the Royal Family and move to Sidcup. Still, we should at least be grateful that the royal warrant survives on unhealthy products such as gin and guns (Parley, naturally). A Suffolk sausage-maker called Murr's holds the royal warrant for sausages. Anton Laundry in

Andover, Hants, washes the Prince's underpants and is now allowed to brag about this. (Employees make a 100-mile round trip to and from Highgrove, which either means that they are superb at their job - or else HRH should get a copy of the *Yellow Pages*.)

W Forbes of Aberdeenshire is the royal taxidermist. The "At-a-Glance" Calendar Company makes the calendars. Valerie M Bennett-Levy of Hindhead makes its nosebags. Robin Tuke of Haslemere supplies Prince Charles's mobile phones, although I have a feeling that he hasn't always done so. (Think of Tampongate.)

As a marketing tool, it must be considered effective by the privileged few: they reckon that a couple of dozen free containers of jam or fags are well spent, since there are still a number of people who feel that the crest confers class, as well as those who acknowledge the quaint absurdity, the touchingly inept commercialism of the whole system.

But there is one area where the royal warrant is becoming highly troubling, far more so than the tobacco question. And that is in the case of purveyors of creative imagination to the Royal Family: in other words, the Poet Laureate. This, as a poem published yesterday by Tony Harrison makes clear, is a position he would run a mile in light shoes to avoid.

Worse: his verse rejection is an impressive act of lese-majesty. He would, he says, rather be "free not to have to puff some prince's wedding/ free to say up yours to Tony Blair/ to write an ode on Charles I's beheading/ and regret the restoration of his heir."

That we can still read that and say it has taken balls to write it shows how far we have to go. And if, one day, a manufacturer can turn round to a royal at the counter and say: "If you don't mind, we'd rather not have your patronage" - that is, not to be associated with a world of unearned privilege, unearned wealth and unearned respect - then it will show that we are finally beginning to grow up.



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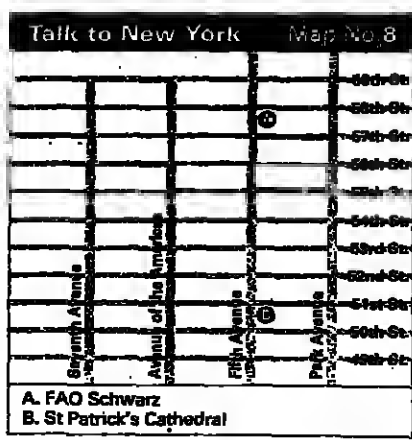
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THE INDEPENDENT

Best of brood

English fiction has no more potent character than Heathcliff.
John Sutherland compares versions of Emily Brontë's anti-hero

Run a web search on "Heathcliff" and you may come up with as many as 1,000 hits, depending on the efficiency of your search engine and the phase of the moon. Only Hamlet, among literary names, will yield more. Emily Brontë indubitably invented the name by fusing two topographical elements; her heirs, like Shakespeare's, might wish she had trademarked it. Among all the banalities and opportunists (you'd be surprised how many building firms use it), there are rich oddities for the connoisseur to relish. A homepage, for example, that argues with paranoid urgency that Xena, Warrior Princess (she of the thighs like Doric columns) was "obviously" inspired by Heathcliff. I can't see it myself but GallusMag@aol.com can.

Academics add their own distinctive craziness. The Emily Brontë homepage lists learned articles and monographs "proving" that Heathcliff is Irish (was the novel not published in 1847 - the year of the Famine?), that he is black (does not Nelly call him "swarthy"?), and that he is Earnshaw's illegitimate child (thus rendering his relationship with Cathy incestuous). There is, it seems, something about this novel that turns otherwise sensible critics' wits to porridge.

The bulk of the items swirling around in cyberspace in February 1999 are, however, attributable to two sources. One is the achievement on the basaltic diamond of that rising star, Heathcliff Slocumb - 220 pounds of 20-year-old muscle with a golden right arm, Heathcliff, pitcher extraordinaire, has just signed a one-year contract with the Baltimore Orioles for a million dollars a year. He is, as they say, hot.

Mr and Mrs Slocumb named their boy, I would like to think, after watching a rerun on TV in the early Seventies of the black and white Laurence Olivier/Sam Goldwyn film. There is, one might conjecture, a certain intensity about young Slocumb's dead eyes and an aggressive jut of the chin which recalls Larry at his fiercest. Attractive as the hypothesis is, there is a less romantic explanation. Thirty years ago a New York advertising man,

George "Gately" Gallagher, resolved to break into the cartoon business. Disney had sewn up (and trademarked) mice and dogs. Gately opted for a friendly cat with a sinister name. It was a brilliant gimmick. Heathcliff was the first solo-cat to feature in a long-running comic strip. The name, with its heavy literary baggage, was irresistible. Dubbed the Cat of the Century (edging out Tom of Tom-and-Jerry, Garfield and Felix) Heathcliff has been phenomenally successful.

Millions of furry friends have been named in his honour. He is syndicated (and the name at last trademarked) in over a thousand newspapers worldwide. He has been animated in more than 80 television shows, and there are over a million Heathcliff books in print. Heathcliff cartoons, it is proudly recorded, have even hung on the

Heathcliff can instantly switch from irresistible charm to cold savagery

walls of the Louvre in Paris alongside Mona Lisa. My guess is that some of those drawings missed Mr and Mrs Slocumb as they were thinking of a name for their child.

Heathcliff is an appropriate name for a cat. Appropriate, because cats can instantly switch from irresistible charm to cold savagery. They are, although the most home-exploiting of pets, the least domesticated. They despise us, and we love them. Pure Heathcliff.

George Gately's mog is, it must be confessed, the least feral of felines. I like to think of the Heathcliffs that have been spawned over the years on a "cosiness" scale of one to 10: one being as nasty as you can get and 10 as cuddly as you can get. Heathcliff the cat scores nine. He's tubby, jolly and - need one ask? - neutered.

I must confess I didn't see Cliff Richard's Heathcliff musical, although his four websites (all of which go out of their way to call him Sir Cliff) think extremely well of it. They are not, of course, the former Harry Webb's sternest critics. On the evidence I

have, I would have to score Cliff Heathcliff at around eight. Nice when he sings. Ten when he sings hymns. And, unworshipfully as it is, I can't help wondering if like Heathcliff the cat, he lacks some of the necessary physical equipment.

And what about the most venerable Heathcliff of them all, Laurence Olivier? The greatest of our 20th-century actors, Olivier was capable of creating a subtext to the parts that Hollywood thrust on him, subversively suggesting more than the scriptwriters ever meant him to. In close-ups Olivier projects a kind of glinting venom that still chills - particularly in Cathy's death scene. When he turns it on, Olivier can score as low as three. A Heathcliff connoisseur, as Hemingway would say, I always thought Timothy Dalton's TV Heathcliff of 1970 underrated. There's a stillness about his acting which makes him look wooden when action is required (was there ever a less dynamic James Bond?). But he can brood very effectively. His portrayal of adolescent Heathcliff, the most mixed-up teen in literary history, was most impressive. I'd rate Dalton at two and a bit. Getting very close to the real stuff but not quite violent enough.

Still swirling around on the Net are the lyrics and music to Kate Bush's "Wuthering Heights", the song that launched her career in January 1978 (and sold a record number of Emily Brontë's novel in the same year). Underneath the shrieks which are Ms Bush's contribution to contemporary culture, the words can be read less as an anthem of love than as the refrain of a battered and abandoned wife: You had a temper like my jealousy! Too hot, too greedy! How could you leave me! When I needed to possess you! I hated you, I loved you! Too cruel! Heathcliff, my one dream! My only master! Every woman, as Sylvia Plath put it, adores a fascist, the boot in the face (what a terrific Heathcliff Ted Hughes would have made).

Kate Bush, like no actress, captures the screaming pain that Heathcliff inflicts on women. If only she could have been cast opposite the nastiest of Heathcliffs - Ralph Fiennes in the 1992 TV version. Him raving in his mad scenes and her raving in her ghastly-ghostly grief would make a won-



Laurence Olivier as Heathcliff with Merle Oberon as Cathy in the 1939 'Wuthering Heights' Kobal Collection

derful duet. Two for Ms Bush and Mr Fiennes as the Heathcliff fantasy team.

And whose version scores highest? Whose is purest, nastiest essence of Heathcliff? Emily Brontë's, of course.

When he returns to Wuthering Heights after his mysterious exile, Heathcliff has become someone very cruel. He left an uncouth but essentially humane stable-lad. He returns a gentleman psychopath. His subsequent brutalities are graphically recorded. They are many, and very unpleasant. Heathcliff beats his wife Isabella. "You'd hear of odd things, if I lived alone with that mawkish, waxen face," he tells

Cathy before he claims his bride. "The most ordinary would be painting on its white the colours of the rainbow, and turning the blue eyes black, every day or two." Which, indeed he does. For good measure he throws a kitchen knife at her, scarring her for life.

Heathcliff has no compunction about punishing young Catherine when he finds her hoarding a miniature of her father (which he takes pleasure in grinding underfoot). Young Heathcliff is watching.

"I winked," he tells Nelly. "I wink to see my father strike a dog, or a horse, he does it so hard." On a casual level, Heathcliff is given to killing household pets (the stran-

gles his wife's favourite dog by way of a wedding present) and desecrates graves.

Brontë's Heathcliff, we may assume, is not a nice man. And, in a later age, his violence against women and lawlessness would have earned him a prison sentence - or, at the very least, a string of restraining orders and court injunctions. And yes, he is a murderer.

Professor John Sutherland is the author of 'Was Heathcliff A Murderer?' and will talk this evening on 'Versions of Heathcliff' at the Voice Box at Royal Festival Hall, London SE1, 7.30pm (0171-960 4242)

ON THE FRINGE

THE STRONGER/THE SOUND OF SILENCE GRACE THEATRE
THE RAPE OF LUCRECE UNION THEATRE

THE MONOLOGUE is perhaps the most rudimentary form of theatre, but a common failing is that although what is said by a solo character may be well said, there is often no good reason for it being said at all.

Both August Strindberg in *The Stronger* (1889) and Jean Cocteau in *Le Bel Indifférent* (1940) provide a simple justification for their monologists' utterances: there is someone else present. As this double-bill powerfully illustrates, this isn't simply a matter of convenience; it greatly intensifies the drama of the solitary voice.

In *The Stronger*, directed by Timothy Shaffer, two women meet. The older of the two (Mrs X) seems to be offering tea and sympathy to an actress friend (Miss Y) who, we learn, is coping with the end of a relationship and loss of her job.

There is, though, something gleaming and angrily valedictory about the speaker's manner: she suspects the other of

having had an affair with her husband. The more she talks, the more marked Miss Y's silence becomes, thus unsettling the balance of power. As Mrs X, Christina Greatrex suggests a brave assurance that can't quite fight off distress. Claire McCarron's Miss Y is perfectly understated: she could be listening intently; or be miles away.

Anthony Wood's *The Sound of Silence*, a version of Cocteau's Plat-inspired *Le Bel Indifférent*, makes you appreciate it as both a theatrical experiment and a blistering study in human cruelty. In Guy Retallack's production, the timber-frame café door from *The Stronger* is cleverly recycled as the balcony window out of which Trina Diva's singer threatens to hurl herself, having failed to elicit so much as a murmur from her indifferent, unfaithful lover.

Divra, a Bulgarian, has the kind of plaintive, cracked voice that you imagine a distraught continental cabaret star should have.

but it's the scenario's collusive force that sustains interest. You realise to your horror that you don't want her slobby other half to open his mouth. Anything he said would lessen her theatrically splendid isolation.

Shakespeare's poem "The Rape of Lucrece" might be thought too wordy to work on stage. But Theresa Shiban's adaptation convinces otherwise. She boldly carves up the overwrought lines among seven actors, who use stylised movement to get across the thrust of the story (Lucrece's rape by Tarquin and consequent suicide), and the characters' anguished deliberations about life and honour.

The weird, exotic sounds supplied by two musicians underscores the noble intent: all welcome, not just academics.

'The Stronger': The Sound of Silence (0171-794 0022) London SW11, 21 Feb; *'The Rape of Lucrece'* (0171-261 9876) SE1, 22 Feb

Nuclear physicists have feelings too

MICHAEL FRAYN'S *Copenhagen* is busy collecting every gong in sight. It has already swept up the Evening Standard and the Critics' Circle awards for best drama. If my experience is anything to go by - I found a copy of the play bizarrely shelved next to the Blue Guide to Denmark in my local library - it can only be a matter of time before it walks away with the £1,000 Livingstone Award for Travel Writing.

The play's West End transfer with the same cast (David Burke, Sara Kestelman and Matthew Marsh) fully confirms the justice of all this. You might imagine that the most striking difference in the shift from studio theatre would be the configuration of stage and audience. One of the play's great virtues is, after all, its absolute purity of focus. It trains its lens on characters who are arguing in some stark limbo beyond the grave, about what really transpired when the German nuclear physicist Werner Heisenberg made his mysterious, fateful, inconclusive visit to his former teacher, Niels Bohr, in Nazi-occupied Copenhagen in 1941. Was his aim to try to warn the older man of the German atomic bomb programme or to recruit him for it; to give or to filch? And was Heisenberg's role in the slowing down of that programme evidence of virtue or scientific ignorance?

THEATRE
COPENHAGEN
DUCHESS THEATRE
LONDON

The play's austere concentration was heightened by placing the action on a bare circular set with part of the audience on steeply raked seats at the back like jurors in a never-ending tribunal. Yet the Duchess Theatre has such an intimate lecture-room atmosphere that the same conditions are easily reproduced. Seeing it again, I was struck by how powerfully it engages the feelings as well as the intellect, a fact perhaps originally under-emphasised.

For it is much more than a cerebral thriller about the shifting interpretations of that crucial meeting. It's also much more than just Sartre's *Huis Clos* rewritten for people with a PhD in atomic physics. Delicately applying Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle to his own life and to life in general,



More than a cerebral thriller

Geraint Lewis

the play is a profound and haunting meditation on the mysteries of human motivation. It is also a poignant love story of sorts, the older scientist seeking, and then feeling betrayed by, a substitute son.

PAUL TAYLOR

Young, gifted and Swedish

AS HE rather sheepishly admitted in his introductions, there is a note of fraudulence about trumpeter Anders Bergcrantz and his quartet appearing in the Swedish Jazz Extravaganza, an event which is dominating the jazz calendar in London this week. Two members of the band come from Denmark.

On a freezing night in Barnes, though, all four men seemed quite at home, and the soberly-dressed group warmed up a curious audience with unapologetic vigour. Bergcrantz, like most of the leading young voices in European jazz, is

scarcely known here, but his several records - mostly on the Stockholm-based Dragon label - are full of bountiful music, and this London debut was an unassumingly exciting occasion.

It's a daring thing for a trumpeter to lead a rhythm section by himself, without the valuable prop of a second horn player as confidante and balance, but one never missed another voice, so graceful and inventive was the leader's playing. If his albums suggested a cutting, sometimes curt intensity, in person he consistently took a more measured line without surrendering the incendiary

JAZZ
ANDERS BERGCRANTZ
BULLS HEAD
LONDON

quality which is a trumpeter's birthright. Opening with "Invitation", a sophisticated choice of standard, he respectfully set out all the contours of the melody before building a long, complex, but logical improvisation out of it.

That was the pattern for the night, with solo space generously allotted and the players consistently justifying their time. Pianist Carsten Dahl uses

a compendium of styles that he melds together so forcefully that one forgets about the derivations and enjoys his infectious hrio. Kaspar Vadsholt is the antithesis to the doggedly laidback bassman role. A frenzied puppet of a man, he animated the bandstand by himself. Drummer Peter Nilsson - the other authentic Swede - refused to take any solo limelight, but frequently beat six-dozen bells out of his kit. They do nothing that jazz hasn't already heard before, but they certainly remind you as to why it is still able to sound so exciting.

RICHARD COOK

A co-production between the Royal National Theatre and the Everyman Theatre, Liverpool.

Guiding Star

a new play by Jonathan Harvey

'ONE OF THE BEST NEW PLAYS OF THE YEAR'
Daily Mail

'A bracing Liverpool tragi-comedy that confronts awkward home truths with refreshing honesty'
Guardian

This play contains explicit language which some people may find offensive

Cottesloe: 15, 16, 25, 26 Feb, 1 & 2 Mar at 7.30pm, 17 & 27 Feb at 2.30pm & 7.30pm & continuing

NT Royal National Theatre
Box Office 0171-452 3000
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TV: ROBERT HANKS



To stamp out the dangerous habit of thinking, Adrian got his staff to dress up as giant pink rabbits

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MARK LITTLE DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

BY ROB BECKER

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SPECIAL VALENTINE'S PERFORMANCES - Sunday 14 February at 4.00pm & 7.00pm



Some building societies offer 'green mortgages' on homes built to specified minimum standards of energy conservation

Dragon News

Liberty for leaseholders

Unhappy with your freeholder? You don't have to be. By Karen Woolfson

PETER MANDELSON is not the only person who has experienced problems over a property in Notting Hill's now-famous Talbot Road. One of his neighbours, Jonathan Ash, an investment banker who owns three flats in a Victorian building in this prestigious street, has been fighting a battle on a different front. Mr Ash and another leaseholder in the block are celebrating a victory over their freehold landlord.

They have just represented themselves in a case fought through the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal, demonstrating that it is possible to save a lot of money if you are prepared to put time and effort into the

The freeholder is now limited to the right of receiving ground rent

process, Mr Ash and his co-applicant won an application to appoint a manager of their choice, removing all powers formerly vested with the freeholder who is now limited to the right of receiving ground rent on their property.

They both bought properties in the block in the summer of 1997 and were told at the time of purchase that there were no plans for major redecoration or building work. However, soon after buying their flats, they were sent details of works to be carried out, which could cost a total of £5,450.

Mr Ash was furious: "I don't classify this amount as minor. The work began almost immediately and the contractors ground a quarter of an inch off the brickwork on the facade of our house. (It was) destructive and needless."

Mr Ash wants the Government to speed up hearings, reduce tribunal costs, and ensure that leaseholders are not exposed to legal costs.

Bruce Maund Taylor, a property manager, also wants to see a legal requirement for a landlord, managing agent or management company to sign a standard detailed written contract of management practice. A copy should be given to every leaseholder buying a property. This legally binding contract should include:

- a conflict of interest statement
- compliance with all codes of conduct, including a tightened-up version of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' code
- full details of banking, accounting and cheque signing authority, and certification of the service charge accounts
- details of current expenditure and copies of the last three years' service charge accounts, prepared in accordance with company law, and separate accounts prepared in accordance with new, stricter landlord and tenant legislation
- a statement showing annual contracts in place, their duration and when they were last competitively priced
- a statement of all bank accounts where any service charge monies are held or have been held, and
- a statement that the auditors have seen all invoices, receipts, bank statements and ledger sheets

Many leaseholders want the Government to set up a regulator for managing agents, landlords and managers, similar to the Financial Services Authority. They say that the key is for Parliament to take a clear stand, giving home-owners a watchdog with teeth. Those against the regulator usually represent the freeholder's or manager's point of view and fear that such a watchdog would force them into line, but anything short of that could prove to be an inadequate compromise.

The moral maison

How ethical is your mortgage? Here's how to ensure it's in line with your standards. By Iain Morse

Taking a mortgage is the biggest single financial commitment many of us ever make. Ethically minded home-owners face tricky choices when it comes to selecting a loan that meets their moral standards. A clear understanding of how mortgage lenders differ in their overall business policies can help. Even so, a degree of pragmatism both in terms of where you borrow and how you repay a loan may be necessary.

The provision of domestic mortgages in the UK is dominated by two types of lender: banks and building societies. The key difference between these from an ethical investor's point of view is that banks borrow and lend on the international money markets and building societies do not.

Because of their mutual status, building societies must restrict their core business to taking deposits from and lending to individual members of the public. This means that they are almost wholly free of involvement in areas of business that the ethically minded regard as unacceptable.

By contrast, all of the "Big Four" clearing banks - Barclays, Lloyds-TSB, Midland and NatWest - have been involved in areas such as the provision of Third World debt, or of trade credits to governments buying weapons from the UK.

International banking activity is swathed in secrecy. "Confidentiality" is crucial to the success or failure of at least some of the business they carry out but also a convenient alibi for their conduct of business and

of old derelict buildings. The Norwich and Peterborough Building Society offers a "green mortgage" on homes which are built to specified minimum standards of energy conservation. The Catholic Building Society also deserves mention: it has a stated aim of helping those - particularly single mothers - who cannot otherwise obtain a mortgage.

Some societies, notably Bradford & Bingley, are now so large that they have started buying non-mutual businesses which are wholly owned by their mutual "cores". B&B has invested into areas linked to mortgage lending such as chains of estate agents.

How you pay off a loan can also create dilemmas for the ethically minded. Rob Harrison, editor of *Ethical Consumer* magazine, argues: "The morally cleanest solution is to take a repayment mortgage where you repay both interest and capital with a mutual lender." Taking this route, you will then only have to purchase life insurance to cover the amount owed on the mortgage. "Buy from a mutual," observes Mr Harrison, "and you will

All the big banks have been involved in provision of Third World debt

provide the best option for ethical borrowers. And their average lending rates have been up to 0.5 per cent less than those of bank mortgages.

While the world of modern banking has a slick, uniform feel to it, that of many smaller building societies is still strongly individualistic. There are ethically oriented mutuals such as the Ecology Building Society, which specialises in lending on the purchase and restoration

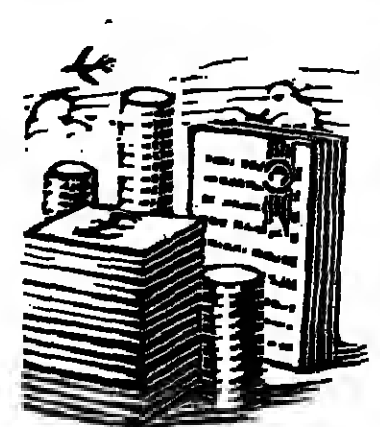
Businessman: born free but chained to his laptop

THE TRADING system in New York needs a quick once-over to make sure it really is the same as the one in London. Why this is necessary, I'm not sure. It strikes me that software is software wherever it's installed, but if it means a freebie to the States, who am I to complain?

Which brings me to where I am now, sitting in business class - only it's not called that, it's called something like Executive Club or President Suite - sipping champagne and looking around me. This makes me, as far as I can see, unique in this part of the cabin. All about me, there are men and women tapping away frantically at their notebook computers and personal organisers, and they've been doing it almost from the moment they got on the plane.

You can spot the regular fliers from the little rituals they perform when they board: take off coat, jacket and shoes (both sexes); loosen tie and roll up shirt sleeves (men); spray face with mineral water mist and put on serious-looking but expensive glasses with dark frames (women); order freshly squeezed orange juice (men and women); unpack vast array of electronic gadgetry and fidget until plane has taken off and can switch it all on (men and women).

Not that I could join in even if I wanted to. Unsurprisingly, the concept of mobile trading hasn't caught on yet, so my personal organiser contains nothing more exciting than names, addresses and a few games. I don't even keep my diary in it, not since the time I stood up



THE TRADER

friends three evenings in a row because I'd written them in 1996 by mistake. Consequently, I am about the only person in business class making eye contact with the cabin crew, and they spoil me rotten as a result.

So while I'm nibbling on dinky little snacks left over from first class, my fellow passengers are beavering away. Luckily, though they may be making full use of the hand-writing recognition - an interesting challenge, I think, if we hit turbulence - at least no one is using voice recognition.

Not that you could in a public space like this: too many secrets would come out, like how much company time these City types waste writing

letters in which they threaten to sue their builders and so on. The next labour-saving device has to be a headset that can take down your thoughts and e-mail them immediately. How ghastly, I think. Then I realise that a society organised like that wouldn't last long anyway.

The only obstacle to my happy champagne-and-smoked-salmon-fuelled musing is the man next to me. He's old - at least 40 - and fat and sweaty. This doesn't really surprise me, though. I've never sat next to anyone on a plane who wasn't ugly. Once, on the Eurostar to Paris, I sat next to a male model - but he was a Libran and wouldn't stop talking, so it wasn't that good.

Anyway, this flight's Mr Ugly is an entrepreneur from somewhere up north, Cheshire perhaps, who's wearing a three-piece mustard yellow checked suit that makes him look like an oversized Rupert Bear.

Not that he's horrid or anything, just a bit chatty. He tells me about what he does, and I half listen. He nudges me to make sure I'm listening. "I'll speak plainly," he says, then laughs and adds: "No pun intended." None taken, I think. "This lot" - he carries on - "are like rats on a treadmill. It's no way to live."

I look harder at the faces around me and suddenly realise where I've seen them before: in an engraving of a Victorian workhouse my history teacher showed me once. So much for progress, I think, and take another sip of champagne.

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AND THEIR RELATIONS

OFFICE 0171 494 550

They are easy to set up and can save a fortune in death duties. By Andy Couchman

Put your faith in a trust

Spending just a few minutes arranging a simple trust could save the average life assurance customer thousands of pounds and significant amounts of time, at no cost to him- or herself, a Rotherham-based financial adviser claims.

Julian Crooks, of Murray Borrill and Partners, believes that everyone who has a life assurance policy should look at having a trust. He cites the case of a widow he was asked to advise who had a policy worth more than £300,000 that was not written in trust. Had she died, her children would have had to pay more than £100,000 in additional death duties and could have had to wait months before getting their hands on the money. Yet both problems could have been avoided had she been advised to use a trust, something that most life insurers are happy to provide free of charge.

A trust works by placing property - in this case the proceeds of a life insurance policy - into the hands of trustees, whose job it is to ensure that the money is paid out in line with the wishes of the person who sets up the arrangement.

A trust can be set up simply and quickly. The person setting it up (called a settlor) appoints two people to act as trustees on his or her behalf. They should be people you can trust to do what you ask them to, but do choose carefully; you cannot usually sack a trustee - although they are free to resign.

Although a trust can be set up to give no discretion as to who should get the money, most modern trusts allow for a degree of flexibility. That can be important if beneficiaries die, or if you no longer want them to benefit - ex-partners or ex-spouses, for example.

Trusts can trace their beginnings back to the Middle Ages. Then, if a tenant farmer died leaving a son who was not yet 21, the lord of the manor was entitled to use the land until the boy reached the age of majority. But if the land was conveyed to a trusted friend who would pass it back to the boy once he became 21, then the land

effectively stayed within the family. Today's trusts cover a much wider range of property and, at least so far as life assurance is concerned, could not be simpler to arrange. One company that has led the move towards plain English trusts is Scottish Provident. It has produced "A Guide to Trusts".

Ian Smart, marketing technical support manager at Scottish Provident, explains why the guide has been produced: "We know customers are taking the time and trouble to protect their families against their dying or becoming seriously ill. However, they are not finishing the job because they believe trusts are complicated."

The two big benefits of trusts are the speed of pay-out and the reductions in inheritance tax (IHT). Before an insurance company can pay out under a life assurance policy, it must make sure that it pays out to the right person. That means waiting for probate, a process that can take months.

THE POLICIES

What insurance policies can you place in trust?

- term assurance
- whole-of-life insurance
- savings and investment plans (endowment plans)*
- friendly society tax-exempt policies*
- the life assurance part of a pension plan
- insurance-linked lump sum investments*
- critical illness policies*

*Always take advice, as you may not be able to get the benefits back yourself if the policy is under trust.

What insurance policies can you not place in trust?

- mortgage endowment policies held by your lender
- any other policy held as security for a loan
- income protection policies
- any general insurance policy

If someone dies without a will, the process can take even longer and the estate proceeds must then be paid out in line with the laws on intestacy. A spouse with young children would get just £125,000 plus interest on half the remainder of the estate, regardless of what they and their deceased partner might have wanted. If they were not married, the partner could get even less.

A trust avoids all such problems, as the insurer can simply pay a cheque to the trustees on presentation of a death certificate. To meet the range of circumstances that people may have, Mr Smart says that his company has five main trusts covering most business, family and investment needs.

IHT is charged at 40 per cent on all but the first £233,000 of an estate on death. That figure includes the value of any home and life insurance not under trust, but excludes any sums paid to a spouse. With many people having life insurance cover of £100,000 or more, IHT is no longer a tax just for the rich. If your estate would be subject to the tax, each £1 of life insurance cover is really worth just 60p.

The mathematics mean that to get £1 after tax, you would need to start with £1.67. In other words, not having a trust could mean having to pay 67 per cent more for your life assurance than you need to.

The insurance industry does not know how many of its policies are written under trust but most estimates put the figure at less than half.

Yet it is not too late. Mr Crooks says that even existing policies can be placed in trust and that, provided your needs are straightforward and you have two trusted friends or relations willing and able to manage the trust for you, then the time and financial savings available could make a trust one of the best investments you ever make.

For a free copy of Scottish Provident's "A Guide to Trusts", call 0131 260 5253; Murray Borrill and Partners, 01709 371675. Andy Couchman is publishing editor of HealthCare, Insurance Report



You need to know who you can trust with your life

Catch a PEP before they go

Before PEPs disappear, take advantage of some useful tax breaks. By Tony Lyons

PERSONAL EQUITY plans (PEPs) have proved themselves one of the most popular means of tax-efficient savings. Since their introduction almost 12 years ago, around 4 million investors have accumulated almost £50bn, free of all capital gains and income tax, through PEPs.

But now time is running out. From 6 April, no new money will be allowed into PEPs, which are being replaced with individual savings accounts (ISAs). So you can expect to see tempting PEP offers over the coming weeks. Groups such as M&G have already entered the fray, offering up to £200 to new investors. Others will include 2 or 3 per cent reductions in their initial charges.

The message from the PEP managers will be "use it or lose it". But much will depend on your tax status and investment aims; as well as the Chancellor replacing PEPs with ISAs, he has also changed the rules on advanced corporation tax (ACT).

Until 5 April, PEP managers will still be able to reclaim this tax paid on dividends by the companies in their portfolios - which makes them free of income tax. For the following five years, only half the ACT can be reclaimed, and from 2004 it will have to be paid in full.

This has serious implications for anyone using a PEP to maximise the income from savings. The effect will be substantially to reduce income. For example, if your dividends currently amount to £100 after ACT, the managers of your PEP scheme will increase this to £125 by reclaiming the full ACT from 6 April, assuming no growth in dividends, they will be able to reclaim only £11. After 2004 you will receive just £100.

Therefore, taxpayers should seriously consider using corporate bond PEPs to generate a high income if this is the investment objective. Income from loan stocks - corporate bonds, or gilts - unlike dividends, will still be free of tax.

In fact, PEPs in general are best for higher-rate taxpayers, even if they remain in income funds. This is because even with the changes in ACT, they will still generate more income than direct investments, as the rate of ACT is lower than the 40 per cent higher tax rate.

And for anyone seeking long-

term growth, the shelter from capital gains tax is a worthwhile benefit, though few investors make more than the threshold £8,800 a year in profits from their investments.

Non-taxpayers can, however, look to invest direct rather than through a PEP, unless they expect to make substantial capital gains. They will still be able to reclaim any tax paid on dividends, unlike PEP holders.

If you are a standard-rate taxpayer, you can invest direct in corporate bond unit trusts. Some groups, including CGU, Fidelity and M&G now offer them outside their PEP wrappers. You could then use a PEP to shelter your investment in funds where long-term capital growth is the aim - or use a growth PEP to produce an income by cashing in some of your gains each year.

Jason Holland, of Best Investment, points out: "Most unit trusts

Taxpayers should seriously consider using corporate bond PEPs to generate a high income

can be bought more cheaply through a PEP than by investing direct. And as the investment should grow, it will be free from CGT. Also, you don't have to declare your PEP holdings on your income tax returns."

It may be a surprise that most general PEPs have lower charges than a direct fund investment. "PEP investors don't move in and out of their holdings as often as those who invest direct," says Ann Davis, director of Fidelity, "so this makes it cheaper for us, and we pass this on in lower PEP charges."

Under the existing rules, up to £5,000 can be invested in a general or self-select PEP and £3,000 in a single company PEP.

The Independent's "Guide to PEPs", by Nic Cincotti, personal finance editor, is sponsored by Scottish Widows Fund Management. Call 0345 678910 for your free copy

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A warrior in Whitehall

I WORK FOR...

REBECCA LEE IS PA TO HELENA KENNEDY QC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL AND AUTHOR OF 'EVE WAS FRAMED'



I applied for the job after reading Helena's book Kalpesh Lakhigra

When I left university I applied for a teaching job in Hungary with the British Council but they offered me a job in Ukraine instead, where I worked for a year before moving to the London office. Helena joined us last August, and I became her private secretary three weeks before Christmas.

Two weeks later I went to India for a holiday. Perhaps it wasn't the best way to start a job but before I left, Helena rushed over and gave me a Christmas present and a hug which, considering the fact that she hardly knew me, was generous, kind and a measure of her character.

I probably wouldn't have applied for the job had it not been for the fact that I had been so impressed by Helena's book *Eve Was Framed*, about the injustices that exist for women in the criminal justice system in Britain.

I was interested to see how Helena would put her principles into practice. I'm not the kind of person who is usually lost

We are not promoting cultural imperialism, running around the world banging a British drum

for words but when we met for the first time and she asked me to tell her something about myself, I couldn't think of anything to say at all. After my attack of speechlessness I was surprised that she offered me the job.

Helena is enormous fun, always telling amusing stories, and a very good team player. She doesn't stand on ceremony and is very relaxed, open and friendly. People are sometimes a bit open-mouthed because they expect her to be more formal. She's extremely quick and very much knows her own mind, although she's not afraid to ask for others' opinions.

I think the British Council appealed to her because it's an organisation that works on issues which are important to her, including human rights, women's issues, education and the arts. I think she also values the innovative methods we use when

we are initiating these projects abroad. Working for Helena is inspiring, particularly as hers is a voice that others listen to. During her speech in a recent debate about the British Council in the House of Lords, she said that she would be a warrior in Whitehall fighting on the Council's behalf. In a way, her tone of phrase characterised her - you can just imagine her

as an Amazonian woman. She describes the work of the Council as establishing conversations with mankind, which is exactly why I enjoy working here myself. I believe that helping one culture communicate with others, whether through art, language, dance or working on a project with a non-governmental organisation, is the key to overcoming cultural differences.

The essential purpose of the British Council is to enhance the reputation of Britain around the world; therefore, some of our projects are connected with the Cool Britannia concept and up-to-the-minute fashions. But it would be wrong to suggest that we are promoting cultural imperialism, running around the world banging a British drum. Ruddy duddy just isn't the way to describe an organisation whose projects vary from working for the welfare of women forced into prostitution in Ukraine to involving Cherie Blair and local lawyers in a mock trial in China to demonstrate the rights of the accused.

Helena has another office which is run by Hilary, who takes care of all Helena's work outside of the Council but, at the moment, Hilary is away for a month so I've taken over her role during her absence. It's been a real eye-opener, because I'm actually getting to understand all the other things that Helena does when she's not working here. Seeing all the correspondence she gets made me realise how all her high-profile roles - including her positions as a QC, a peer, a writer and presenter, as well as her work at the Council - gives her an obligation to answer the wide variety of letters she receives, which ask for her support or advice.

I want to ask her how she manages the mental switch between appearing in court in the morning and working at the British Council in the afternoon. Maybe it's part of her brilliance that she finds changing gear so easy. She doesn't seem to get stressed, but then I don't get very stressed either. The only thing that stresses me is stressed people.

Apart from being interested in working for Helena, our first woman Chair, I like the idea of being at the heart of everything at the Council. I work quite closely with the secretarial team in general, so I might get asked to do research on how the Nolan Report on Standards in Public Life affects the work of the Council, or on issues of corporate governance, all of which gives me a job a wider scope. I'm also able to do an MA in Eastern European Studies because the Council is quite agreeable to their staff taking time out to study part-time - education being such an important aspect of the work we do.

I would like to work abroad again, but meantime I'm due to go to India with Helena as her private secretary and as an extra pair of ears. I can't wait.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

She's no sister...



THE TEMP

A SIMPLE rule of office politics: don't have conversations in the loo that you don't want overheard. Chances are, the person behind the closed cubicle door will be the one you're talking about. Either that, or they'll be a nosy temp.

Outside my cubicle, where I'm taking a screen break, two women are talking, and what they are saying is not nice. "Have you heard?" says a deep voice. "Kat's gone. Resigned this morning." "Jesus," replies a squeaky one. "She'll have every one of us out before spring." "Shaft the competition. Make room for the boys." "Yes. And make room for herself with the boys."

The click of a lipstick top. "What do you mean?" deep voice asks, only it comes out "Ok oo ea" as she's obviously doing her mouth. "You must have noticed," says squeaky. "She's been picking off the attractive ones. Everyone who might take attention away from her. Think about it. First it was Jean, then it was Susannah, then Kirstie, then Poppy." "Uh huh?" "The blondes. There's not a blonde left."

Then it was Carrie, Sharon, Daisy, Monica... "I remember. All really good, then suddenly their promotions got blocked, they can't get through her door, and men half their ages get put into the jobs they should have had." "Exactly. And they all had bodies to die for." "Ooh, yes. You're right." "Well, now she's picking off the good dressers. That and, of course, anyone who might make her look less than perfect."

I can't believe what I'm hearing. Rachel Brougham? The famous Rachel Brougham, who I've been so excited about working for? Rachel Brougham, feminist, author, editor, parliamentary lobbyist, authority on women's rights, TV pundit? The woman we've all grown up striving to emulate, who fought her way up through a man's world without sacrificing femininity, family or fun?

"Tell you what," says deep voice, and what she says sends shivers down my spine. "Rachel Brougham's no sister." "Yeah, well," says squeaky voice. "She's far too busy with the brothers to spare a thought for us."

Damn. And here was I thinking I might at last have fallen on my feet, got to a place where, even if I didn't get a break, I might get some sound advice. Rachel Brougham is always

on the telly spouting about caring employment policies, child care, job shares, open-door policies, employee consultation, flexible working. Surely this can't be true?

"So why did Kat go, then?" asks deep voice. "Couldn't handle the hours," squeaks squeaky. "Ever since she had the baby, Rachel's been on her back. She's not got out of the office before 7pm since she came back from maternity leave. And she never got to work from home even though everyone else does. Every time there was a job that involved going away overnight, she got sent. This is a business, not a charitable institution, apparently."

"You mean she talked to her?" "Well, eventually. On the 30th attempt."

"So much for the open door policy," says deep voice. "You know what her secretary told me? Well, apparently whenever someone she doesn't want to talk to arrives, she grabs the phone and pretends to be engrossed in conversation."

I can't stay in the cubicle any longer; Rachel will have noted my absence. I flush the loo and, by the time I emerge, the room is empty: they obviously scurried out when they realised they were not alone.

Walking back across the floor, I notice that there are, indeed, more men here than women, and the women all seem to have mole skin hair, taupe skin and checked flannel shirts. On a chair outside Rachel's room, a woman waits. "Have you come to see Rachel?" I ask. "Yes," she says. "But I don't want to disturb her while she's talking." "Sure." I go back to my screen, secretly observing the great feminist from the corner of my eye.

Rachel puts her finger over the clicker, peers out at the chairs and, when she sees that the woman is still there, lifts it back off and turns her back, receiver firmly to her ear.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: SECRETARIAL, OFFICE SUPPORT

FAX: 0171 293 2505

THE BRIDGE
Training for New Horizons

Secretary/Office Administrator

Are you fed up with the daily train journey into Central London and would like to work closer to home?

If you are a young, talented secretary with at least a year's permanent experience, ready to take on a demanding role ranging from straightforward secretarial duties to client liaison and organising training courses - this could be the job for you! We are a management training and business development company based in Sutton, Surrey and are looking for a bright, enthusiastic person.

You must have a strong, outgoing character and will need a flexible attitude to your daily work. Training in specific computer packages will be provided, but a working knowledge of Word, PowerPoint and good standard of education are essential.

Salary will be commensurate with age and experience.

In the first instance, please send your CV to: Deborah West, Director, The Bridge, Westwood House, 123 Westwood Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4JH

"Legal Eagles"

RECEPTIONIST - WC1

A highly professional receptionist is required by a prestigious Barristers' Chambers. Working in luxurious surroundings, in a beautiful listed building, this role will suit a friendly team player, who is capable of working on their own initiative. The position involves answering a sometimes hectic switchboard, meeting and greeting clients, general administration and occasional typing. Keyboard and switchboard experience an advantage.

Salary according to age and experience

Please telephone Louise Smith on 01604 602333

Closing date Friday 19th February 1999 (no agencies or media calls please)

Receptionist/Outdoor Clerk

Hodders is an established busy practice with five offices. We now require a bright, literate and smart individual to work in a busy reception area and undertake some outdoor clerk work in our Harlesden office (NW10). The successful candidate will need to have an excellent telephone manner with strong communication skills and the ability to work under pressure. You may be looking to establish yourself within the legal profession and this provides an excellent opportunity for those wishing to go on to a paralegal/trainee position. Salary AAE.

Please send your handwritten reply together with a C.V. to: Sue Atkins, Hodders Solicitors, 7 Castle Street, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 6RZ.

To advertise in this section please call Valentine Quin on 0171 323 4491 or Zara White on 0171 323 4492.

£20k + Bens PA

PR Co. Blue Chip clients, WC2. MS office. Call: STAFFWISE (Agi) PLC TEL: 0171 378 8388 FAX: 0171 378 8755



PR SECRETARY

Top name in PR with impressive client list requires a proactive, committed team player with excellent skills in all Word and PowerPoint. Day and evening work. Immediate start possible. Call Sophie 0171 636 1493



W1 DESIGN STUDIO

We are looking for a creative and motivated individual to join our team in our new studio in W1. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the design process, from concept to completion. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Please send your CV to: W1 Design Studio, 123 W1 Street, London W1 1AA.

Receptionist NW5

European base of successful international company require an enthusiastic, intelligent and responsible individual with a confident telephone manner & good organisational skills. Complete literacy essential. W4W, Excel & Outlook '98. Salary c£12,000 according to experience.

Please contact: Tricia Dinkin, Office Manager, Fairlight ESP Ltd, Unit 12 Spectrum House, 32/34 Gordon House Road, London NW5 1LP. Tel (44) 0171 267 3533 Fax (44) 0171 267 0919

DFID Department for International Development

Band C1 Personal Secretaries

The Department for International Development is the government department responsible for managing Britain's programme of development assistance to poorer countries. To help in reaching our objective of eliminating poverty, we need Band C1 Personal Secretaries at our London Headquarters in Victoria. These will be permanent appointments.

Personal Secretary duties include diary management, typing (copy, audio or shorthand), distribution, filing, faxing and photocopying of documents, arranging meetings and travel. You will need to have communication skills, both oral and written; good organisational skills; be well motivated with a flexible attitude and be able to prioritise. The ability to use Microsoft Word and Excel would be an advantage although training can be arranged. A typing speed of 50wpm is required (technical skills will be tested).

Salary scale £12,307 to £16,590.

For further details and an application pack please contact our recruitment line on 0171 917 0079 (24 hour answerphone), or fax 0171 917 0686 or e-mail dfid-recruitment@dfid.gov.uk. Closing date for receipt of completed applications Friday 26 February 1999.

DFID is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and applications for these posts are sought from both men and women.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Prestigious Chelsea based Interior Designer, David Collins, requires a first class PA for immediate start. Competitive salary offered for efficient person with relevant experience. Well presented and confident with an excellent telephone manner. Applicants must work well under pressure in a varied environment combining PA skills with some reception duties. W4W and Excel essential.

Please send/fax CV with salary requirements to: Iain Watson/David Collins, 6/7 Chelsea Wharf, Lots Road, London SW10 0QJ. Fax: 0171 352 7284. Email: iain@davidcollins.com

TYPIST/ADMIN ASSISTANT

Required by Architects/Interior Design Company. Sound knowledge of Windows 95, minimum speed of 45 wpm. A methodical approach, together with a good eye for detail is essential as is a willingness to be part of a busy and pressurised team.

Please apply in writing enclosing full CV stating current salary to: C. V. Horner, The Ratcliffe Groves Partnership, 85-84 Long Acre, Covent Garden, WC2E 6JL. No agencies please.

Business Services Association

Self-motivated Personal Assistant required for the Director-General of a busy, high profile Government Affairs Office in High Holborn. Good working knowledge of Office 97 including Access database, plus sound audio skills required. Some experience of general office admin an advantage. The ability to cope with high volume, varied workload will be essential. Competitive salary plus other benefits.

Applications, with current cv and present salary to: Val Hiscock, Corporate Affairs Manager, Business Services Association, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1NU (fax: 0171 405 6263, e-mail: busserasso@aol.com) to arrive no later than Friday 19th February.

INFORMATION ASSISTANT PUBLIC RELATIONS

Are you good at dealing with people on the telephone, patient, sympathetic and interested in researching and disseminating information? Our clients are seeking? Do you have knowledge of the ex-service community or have the ability to learn quickly? The Information Assistant we are looking for has the knowledge and qualities above, and is also an excellent team member who is able to cope with different groups and varied demands. Can you?

If so, please send your CV with hand-written covering letter to Human Resources Officer (R&C), The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY by 19th February 1999.

Please note as a charity we do not acknowledge applications. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted within 2 weeks after closing date.

Secretary/Receptionist

Required for busy Estate Agents office based in Chelsea. Good secretarial skills essential together with professional telephone manner and ability to deal with the general public. Salary by negotiation.

Replies with CV by post or fax to: Angela Stanley, 274 Fulham Road, SW10 9EW. Tel: 0171 352 5556 Fax: 0171 376 8353

PARTNER'S SECRETARY

Small, friendly well established criminal practice specialising mainly in commercial fraud, requires experienced team player for young senior partner and his assistant. Intelligent Secretary with sense of humour and initiative sought for this interesting position which carries considerable responsibility. Card WFT, W4W and 75 wpm typing. Salary AAE. Written applications with CV in last instance to: Burton Copeland HAY, 21 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3JZ. Fax: 0171 430 1101. No Agencies.

Advertising, Publishing, Television, Design, Music, PR, Arts, Marketing, Broadcasting, Entertainment Career moves

ADVERTISING £23K Working for demanding but fun and rewarding CEO 70wpm typing, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Shortlist and interview. Proven track record, approachable, personable and quick thinking. Ref: CP/10/2/W01

HUMAN RESOURCES £22K Great opportunity for an HR administrator with at least 1-2 years experience. Would suit someone who enjoys database analysis - to work in a fast moving environment - but a suitable person. Ref: CP/10/2/W01

ADVERTISING £20K Working in a small but vibrant team with very high profile clients. Word and PowerPoint of advanced level. Confidential suitable role for involved and rewarding role. Ref: CP/10/2/W02

ADVERTISING £19K Working for 2 top Gay Dirs and working with 6 other secretaries. Challenging role with lots of organisation. Informative. Powerpoint essential. Ref: CP/10/2/W03

FACTUAL TV £17K Programming secretary with at least 1 years solid experience and 70wpm shorthand to assist with day to day diary management, coordination, correspondence, interest in factual programming and sense of humour essential. Ref: CP/10/2/W02

FOR THESE POSITIONS AND MORE, PLEASE CALL QUOTING A REF NO. OR FAX/SEND YOUR CV. (If you have not heard from us within 2 weeks, please assume your application has not been successful.)

You can also visit our Website for up to the minute job information: www.careermoves.co.uk

Tel: 0171 292 2900 Fax: 0171 434 0297

Subsidiary House, 5-6 Angel Street, London W1V 1AD

PLAN

CUSTOMER SERVICE Position available in Local Authority environment in and around Central London. Min 1 year exp. preferred in a similar environment.

REQUIREMENTS Required for long and short-term posts. Must have audio, min 50wpm, MS Word and Excel plus excellent communication skills.

Bright Opportunities For The Right People For an immediate interview please call Maria Lodi on Tel: 0171 329 2800 Fax: 0171 329 2489

PLAN PERSONNEL 18 MIDGEA HILL, LONDON SW17 4DD

Customer Services/Admin Assistant

Leading Bakery Manufacturer looking for a Cust. Services/Administrator. Must be competent with Word & Excel. Knowledge of Access preferred.

Please send letter and CV to: Personnel Dept, Donuts & Company, 1 Sherwood Street, London W1V 7RA

ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

required for ambitious international gas company. Dependable, precise and numerate team player with experience in general administration including use of Excel, databases and word processing. Please send CV with covering letter stating salary expectations by 19th February 1999 to: Nette Gas Ltd, 30 Charles II Street, London SW1V 4AE

London Bridge

Financial Controller

Battersea c £30,000 + Attractive Benefits Package
A well known high profile, international client is seeking a commercially focused Financial Controller with excellent communication skills. With at least one year's experience in a similar role, you will be working in a dynamic, fast paced environment, so a cool head and excellent organisation skills are paramount. Prospects for development of the position include projected expansion of the finance function in 1999, in which you will play a crucial role. Ref 233134

Assistant Management Accountant

SEI c £22,000 + Study
Our high profile client is looking for a dynamic part qualified accountant studying CIMA or ACCA. This position would suit an ambitious, conscientious self-starter with a blue-chip background and a minimum of one year's experience. You will play an important role in the production of quarterly management accounts for submission to the European Head Office. Superb opportunities for promotion both within the UK and overseas. Ref 286850

Financial Accountant

Blackdriars c £20,000
Large media/advertising company requires an ambitious part qualified accountant to be involved in all aspects of financial accounts. Responsibilities will include maintaining the fixed asset register, accruals and prepayments, VAT returns and foreign currency reconciliations. Pre-requisites include a minimum of two years related experience, strong communication skills and a demonstrated ambition to the completion of your ACCA studies. Ref 211456

Telephone 0171 234 0393 or write to 3 Southwark Street,
London SE1 1RQ. Fax 0171 403 3937

ACCOUNTANCY
ADDITIONS

Adding Experience to Recruitment

Strand

Finance Manager

WC1 £30-35,000
Expanding centrally based telecommunications company seeks a Financial Accountant to take full responsibility of the finance function. Duties will include management accounting, budgets, forecasts and statutory accounts. Excellent remuneration package available for a young, dynamic person with five years relevant experience who is either QBE or part qualified. Ref 275164

Senior Accountant

WC2 £30,000
A senior accountant is required to join a rapidly expanding financial services company that serves a range of UK companies and individuals. Primarily the position will entail setting up systems and reporting requirements, preparation of yearly budgets, cashflows, monthly management reports and extensive liaison with clients. Experience of SAGE would be an advantage as would study of a professional qualification. Ref 278220

Joint Ventures Accountant

WC2 £28,000 + Bens
A UK oil exploration company based in WC2 urgently requires a Joint Ventures Accountant. The responsibilities include accounting for field development production expenditure and revenue, monthly forecasting and budgeting. Four years previous experience within this field and knowledge of SUN is required. Ref 278944

Telephone 0171 379 5333 or write to Centric House,
390-391 The Strand, London WC2R 0LT. Fax 0171 836 0655

CREDIT REPO
PRODUCT MANAGER

CAPITAL MARKETS

The London headquarters of a major European investment house is looking to hire a professional dedicated to the Credit Repo product within the capital markets group. Candidates are currently being sought for a London based position.

The responsibilities of this position include developing the Bank's Credit Repo trading policy, establishing appropriate trade support and systems to enable Credit Repo trades to be carried out, and running a profitable Credit Repo matched book covering Emerging Markets, High Yield and High Grade bonds.

The successful candidate will have an MBA or equivalent advanced degree and a minimum of 10 years experience in a capital markets environment, with the following:

- Minimum of 5 years' experience trading the Credit Repo product in both New York and London at top tier investment banks.
- Minimum of 1 year's experience managing a Credit Repo desk.
- Proven track record of establishing profitable repo businesses in various products, including start up situations.
- Proven track record of building and maintaining institutional client relationships in Asia, Europe and the Americas.
- Previous experience of working in risk management and systems within a Capital Markets environment.
- SFA Registered Representative.

A detailed CV and covering letter should be addressed to our consultant, Mrs O. Bailey at GMBM Response Management Services, Landseer House, 19 Channing Cross Road, London WC2H 0ES.



GMBM
RESPONSE
MANAGEMENT
SERVICES

A division of GMBM Advertising and Research

Natural Risk Management
Information Systems

Bristol

The Environment Agency is a dynamic force focusing on the protection and enhancement of the natural world. We are required and guided by Government to help achieve the objective of sustainable development. Our remit is very broad and encompasses pollution prevention and control, flood defence, waste management, water resources and conservation.

We know that our effectiveness depends as much on the quality and control of our internal systems and operations as the work we do in the field and this is where you will play a critical role. Working in partnership with Agency staff you will ensure that significant information system risks are identified and effectively managed. We are also seeking to identify and promote best practice in all the activities we review.

We are now seeking a high calibre, talented IS audit professional to join our multi-disciplined team in Bristol. This is a highly responsible role in which you will carry out a variety of challenging assignments, and so really contribute to the effective management of business risk. You'll have ample opportunity to use your

c.£30,000 + benefits

interpersonal skills and initiative to solve problems, yet still have the independence of mind to form your own conclusions.

Educated to degree level, you should have extensive experience of information systems and be familiar with leading edge systems and project audit techniques. Experience of Year 2000 compliance issues would be an advantage. Equally important will be your tenacity, perseverance and flexibility, that will reflect your strong communication and presentation skills.

You'll need a current driving licence as this role involves a significant amount of travel around England and Wales. Starting salary will be dependent upon qualifications and experience.

If you have a genuine interest in preserving our natural environment then please call Miles Jordan on 0117 914 2890 for an informal discussion. Alternatively, please send your CV and a covering letter to Liz Rex, Environment Agency, Government Buildings, Burghill Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS10 6BF. Closing date for receipt of applications is 26 February 1999.

Head Office operates a no smoking policy.
The Environment Agency is committed to achieving Equal Opportunities.



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

INTERNATIONAL BANK

FINANCIAL ANALYST

Responsibilities will include analysing and carrying out statistical and quantitative research with specific reference to business markets in India, generating investment recommendations and report preparation. The successful applicant will have an MBA and possess extensive business experience within the region. The salary offered is commensurate with experience. If you possess the skills and experience required for this role, please send your CV to:

PO Box 21015, Islington, London N1 2XQ.

FINANCIAL RECOVERY AND
RESTRUCTURING SPECIALISTS

Require a SENIOR INSOLVENCY ACCOUNTANT. Responsibilities will include managing liquidations, receiverships and appointed administrations. Specifically this will involve case strategy development, asset evaluation, creditor liaison, compliance with statutory requirements and reviewing Director's cash flow. The successful candidate will be a qualified Accountant with a minimum 2/3 years insolvency experience. The salary offered is commensurate with experience.

If you possess the skills required for this position, please send your CV to:

PO Box 21015, Islington, London N1 2XQ.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK
BANKING ANALYST

to provide analysis and evaluation of investment opportunities and assisting negotiating teams for restructuring, mergers and acquisitions. The work will concentrate on emerging markets and in particular Turkey. The successful candidate will possess a degree education coupled with at least 2/3 years' relevant experience including a knowledge of the Turkish financial markets. The salary offered is commensurate with experience. If you possess the skills required for this position, please send your CV to:

PO Box 21015, Islington, London N1 2XQ.

Chief Accountant

Middlesex

£30,000

Our client is a major publisher of paid for and free local newspapers. Currently publishing 50 titles, the group's publications are distributed in London and the Home Counties. The group is currently seeking to fill the role of Chief Accountant. Reporting to the Financial Controller, this role will require a dedicated team player to join their friendly and efficient accounts team.

Supervising a team of up to three individuals, you will be responsible for:

- Statutory accounting
- Preparation of management accounts
- Cashflow reporting
- Accounts payable
- Assisting in the preparation of budgets

Candidates will be qualified accountants, ideally from a chartered accounting background with at least two years commercial experience. Ability to perform within a fast paced, high volume environment will be essential, as will the ability to adapt readily to change. Due to tight month end deadlines, occasional weekend work will be required. Candidates will also need to display a good degree of computer literacy, combined with a working knowledge of Sun System. Vision and Excel to advanced macros.

Interested candidates should write enclosing their CV and details of their current package to Rebecca Anderson at Michael Page Finance, Europa House, Church Street, Old Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7DA. Ref OASD. e-mail: rebeccaanderson@michaelpage.com

Michael Page

FINANCE

www.michaelpage.com

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We are seeking for diversity in the Council. We welcome and encourage applications from sections of the community. All full time jobs are available for job share unless otherwise stated. **Telephone: 01904 551105** Web site: <http://www.york.gov.uk>

GOING TO THE TOP?
WE CAN HELP YOU!

The City of York Council is a progressive, innovative Unitary Authority located in one of the country's most historic and beautiful cities. With an income of £200m and 6,000 staff, the Authority is striving to achieve flagship status in 1999 and is also a "Best Value" staff Authority. The Council is looking for three Accountants to provide a customer focused and effective financial service.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT (TECHNICAL)

£27,183 - £29,118

As part of a small and highly specialised team providing financial support to the highest levels of management, you will have a key role in:

- assisting the planning and strategy for a progressive Unitary Authority;
- undertaking appraisals for major developments (up to £50m);
- undertaking research (e.g. Government Grants of £80m);
- treasury management (cashflow £450m), investments/debts (£100m);
- advising on risk management;
- monitoring and advising on resources and financial developments;
- co-ordinating capital programme monitoring.

We are looking for an ambitious CCAB Accountant (preferably CIPFA) with at least 5 years experience, who cannot only deal with the above but also deputise for the Technical Manager and represent the Authority at the highest level. The successful candidate should be a highly motivated person with good communication and presentation skills. In exchange we can offer the opportunity to acquire essential experience for senior financial managers.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Mike Mitchell, Technical Manager on (01904) 551105 or Simon Wiles, Head of Financial Services on (01904) 551102.

SOCIAL SERVICES ACCOUNTANT

£21,357 - £25,245

Working within the Community Services Directorate you will provide high level financial advice on social services issues to managers and members. You will need experience in managing staff, setting and meeting your own targets and working both on your own initiative and within a team.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Ruth Brigham, Finance Manager (01904) 551164 or David Lewis, Accountancy Manager (01904) 551102.

CENTRAL SERVICES ACCOUNTANT

£21,357 - £25,245

Working within the Resources Directorate you will provide high level financial advice to a wide range of managers and members within Leisure Services, Child Experiences and Resources Directorates. You will need experience in managing staff, setting and meeting your own targets and working both on your own initiative and within a team.

For both posts the roles involve:

- day to day responsibility for all areas of the services finance;
- input to a team orientated multi-disciplinary service driven Directorate;
- representing the service at inter-departmental meetings and deputising for the Finance Manager/Principal Accountant as Committee member;
- preparation and analysis of information which will influence management decisions;
- direct supervision of departmental finance staff.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Richard Harle, Principal Accountant on (01904) 551101 or David Lewis, Accountancy Manager (01904) 551102.

Ideally applicants for the above two posts will:

- be a qualified CCAB (preferably CIPFA) Accountant with at least three years experience;
- have good interpersonal skills and the ability to effectively communicate at all levels;
- have good working knowledge of computer systems, specifically Excel spreadsheets;
- have the ability to work as an individual and as part of a team.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 19 February 1999. Interviews are expected to be held during the first two weeks of March 1999. If you have not heard from us by Friday, 26 March 1999, please assume that on this occasion you have been unsuccessful.

APPLICATION PACKS FOR ALL POSTS are available from Catherine Edwards, Senior Administration City of York Council, PO Box 11, Library Square, York YO1 1TL. Tel: (01904) 551155, Fax: (01904) 551190 or e-mail: cath.edwards@york.gov.uk

The Labour Party

Accounting Supervisor

Salary: £18,036 inclusive of London weighting (pending pay award)

A key vacancy has arisen in the Finance Unit of the Labour Party. This opportunity comes at an exciting time as the party faces the challenges represented by the New Committee and the increasing scrutiny of party finances. The successful candidate will help to ensure that the party exceeds its obligations to the public and to its members.

The Accounting Supervisor will be central to ensuring that the Labour Party further improves its procedures. You will be responsible for the maintenance and development of regular financial accounting procedures as well as enacting financial controls and ensuring close-down routines.

You will be an accounting assistant or a part qualified accountant with proven ability to develop the procedures and practices of the Labour Party Finance Unit. A good working knowledge of computerised financial systems would be a distinct advantage.

To obtain an application pack send a postcard to The Personnel Unit, Labour Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4GT.

Closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 22 February 1999.



The Labour Party is an equal
opportunity employer

Labour

APPOINTMENTS
DIARY

Monday

IT, Science,
Engineering

Tuesday

Media, Marketing,
Sales

Wednesday

Finance, Legal,
Secretarial

Thursday

Education, Graduate

Sunday

Public General



Emerging Markets Sales/Structurer

Our client is an A1 rated European commercial bank. The successful applicant will be filling a pivotal role between various working groups within the Emerging Markets team.

The role requires:

- A strong Benelux and Swiss client base
- Extensive experience of designing and structuring Emerging Credit products
- Excellent knowledge of derivative Products
- Broad experience in E.M. local currency sales and in CBOs.
- Proven sales ability and track record in co-ordinating, motivating and managing a sales team.

Candidates must be of graduate level and have a minimum of 5 yrs experience including at least 1 year in trading.

Please send CVs by fax or email to Shaun Springer

Fax: 0171 330 0961 email: shaun@napier-scott.co.uk

Napier Scott Search Napier Scott Search

INTERNATIONAL BANK

Requires FINANCIAL ANALYST.

Responsibilities will include analysing and carrying out statistical and quantitative research with specific reference to business markets in Israel, generating investment recommendations and report preparation. The successful candidate will have an MBA and possess extensive business experience within the region. The salary offered is commensurate with experience.

If you possess the skills and experience required for this role, please send your CV to PO Box 21015, Islington, London N1 2XQ.

To advertise
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293 2691.

NEW FILMS

A BUG'S LIFE (U)
Director: John Lasseter
Starring: David Foley, Kevin Spacey
See The Independent Recommends, right.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, And local cinemas

HIDEOUT KINKY (15)
Director: Gillies Mackinnon
Starring: Kate Winslet, Said Taghmaoui
Through the teeming orange/red/turquoise backdrop of 1870s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters (Bella Riza, Carrie Mullau) unwillingly in tow. Meaningless, gormless backpackers, Sufi teachers, thieving natives and Said Taghmaoui's child-of-the-soil love-interest weave hither and thither across the narrative. Regeneration director Mackinnon makes a fair fist of translating Esther Freud's novel to the screen; stirring in lots of ethnic chic and a canny period soundtrack. Winslet does well with a change-of-pace role as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch, and the child stars are startlingly good. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minerva, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Remont, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Local: Kilburn Triangle Cinema, UCI Surrey Quays. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15)
Director: Kevin Sullivan
Starring: Angela Bassett, Whoopi Goldberg
Stella got her groove back like this. She took off to Jamaica with her feisty buddy (Whoopi Goldberg), sashayed around the beach in a clinging bikini, and got herself a little love action in the form of a man (Taye Diggs) young enough to be her son. So it goes: Shirley Valentine with an

Afro-American spin. Terry MacMillan's bestseller has been conjured into a kind of ongoing travel-agent commercial - a coldly marketed "chick-flick" enjoying a run at cinemas before cropping up as your in-flight entertainment. Title star Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the slide-show of tourist-brochure visuals. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, Local: Acton Park, Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld the Movies, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Peckham Premier, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham Odeon, New Stratford Picture House, UCI Surrey Quays

LIVING OUT LOUD (15)
Director: Richard LaGravenese
Starring: Holly Hunter, Danny DeVito
See The Independent Recommends, right.
West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, Local: Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Peckham Premier, Streatham ABC

PECKER (18)
Director: John Waters
Starring: Edward Furlong, Christina Ricci, Lili Taylor
Trash auteur Waters swerves into sunnier streets with Pecker, his fluffily satirical tale of an amateur Baltimore photographer (Edward Furlong) adopted as a fly-on-the-wall artist by the New York elite. More Hairspray than Pink Flamingos, Pecker goes big on blue-collar kitsch without ever making any real, stringent point, and squanders Christina Ricci (as Furlong's hard-nosed girlfriend) into the bargain. The result is entirely genial, but you miss the old risk edge and bad-taste artistry. Age, it seems, has mellowed John Waters. West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)
The follow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted wails. West End: Plaza, Local: Acton Park, Royal Warner Village, Berkeley Heath Cinesworld, Croydon Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Warner Village North Finchley, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Peckham Premier, Richmond Odeon Studio, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon

BULWORTH (18)
Disillusioned at the end of an election campaign, senator Jay Bulworth (Warren Beatty) turns suicidal loose cannon, hanging out in the 'hood and delivering his speeches in abusive rap stylings. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End, Local: Catford ABC, Croydon Clocktower, Croydon Safari, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Warner Village Finchley Road, Peckham Premier, Wimbledon Odeon Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

ELIZABETH (15)
Shekhar Kapur's story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Pantons Street, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Minerva, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)
Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, but the one stand-out is Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S Thompson to bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Repertory: Prince Charles, The Lux Cinema

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)
Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's biopic of the Du Pré sisters. Hilary (shy, married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on the Hill, Local: Greenwich Cinema, Richmond Odeon Studio

LITTLE VOICE (15)
Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

MEET JOE BLACK (12)
Martin Brest's underdeveloped rehaul of Death Takes a Holiday stars Brad Pitt as the equine Grim Reaper, who get chaperoned around the everyday delights of Planet Earth by Anthony Hopkins' dying billionaire. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Local: Berkeley Heath Cinesworld, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld the Movies, Streatham ABC

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)
See The Independent Recommends, above.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End, Local: Acton Park, Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Richmond Odeon Studio, UCI Surrey Quays

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks hocho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result ends up looking more like The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

RUSH HOUR (15)
Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's buckstering LAPD man. It's a hit-and-miss affair. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, Local: Acton Park, Royal Warner Village, Croydon Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Harrow Warner Village, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham Odeon, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon, Repertory: National Film Theatre

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)
See The Independent Recommends, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

STEPHEN (12)
This sugar-glazed, oven-ready affair casts an out-of-sorts Susan Sarandon as a middle-aged matriarch squabbling over her offspring with the new model mom (Julia Roberts) that bubbly Ed Harris has hooked up with. The first mom gets poorly and laughter turns to tears (or at least weary resignation). West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, And local cinemas

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (18)
James Toback's taught drama probes aggressively at the psychological make-up of its three central characters. Heather Graham and Natasha Gregson Warner are the duped girlfriends of Robert Downey Jr's love-art prima donna, and Too Girls and a Guy gives them plenty of room to move and breathe, turning the resulting yarn into a pungent acting showcase. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Local: Warner Village Finchley Road

VERY BAD THINGS (18)
A bunch of stag-weekenders accidentally kill a Las Vegas whore, intentionally murder the security guard who rumbles the crime, and then start coming apart at the seams on their arrival home. Peter Berg's debut serves up swagging gross-out comedy in a Loaded-magazine style. With Cameron Diaz and Christian Slater. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for Romeo and Juliet. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

Living Out Loud (15)
Holly Hunter plays a Manhattan woman who, left by her husband, befriends the elevator operator in her building. Writer Richard LaGravenese handles everything with affectionate restraint.

A Bug's Life (U)
Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than Antz, this animated feature spins another good yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

The Opposite of Sex (18)
Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, who causes havoc when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan).

π (15)
Darren Aronofsky's debut (right), filmed in sooty black-and-white, tells the story of a genius mathematician. This stylish indie movie fearlessly combines Wall Street, Jewish mysticism and nightmarish headaches.



ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's Theatre)
Triumphant revival of Theatre de Complicie's surreal and searing plunge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz. To 20 Feb

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre)
Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

The Forest (Lyttelton, National Theatre)
Frances de la Tour is deliciously amusing as the cradle-snatching widow in Ostrovsky's comedy about tyrants and thespians (right). In rep

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)
An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep to 4 Mar

Martin Guerre (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds)
It's third time lucky for this much-maligned production. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, more magnificent show. To 13 Feb



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Women: exquisite mixtures of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. Images of triumphant bourgeois luxury. To 25 Apr

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery)
The modern object-world made luminous. This survey of nearly 30 years' work offers his full range - notably, those bold lacunae outlines, blacked in with translucent colour. To 11 Apr

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)
Photographs 1984-98: wide-angle, high-contrast, micro-detailed vistas of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, airport, alpine valley - images filled with more than the eye can see. To 1 Mar

Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)
"I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya and Otto Dix. Visions from the blackest of times. To 20 Mar

Peter Doig & Udomsak Krisanamis (Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh)
Doig's searing landscapes (right) alternate with Krisanamis' collages of cultural detritus. To 27 Mar



TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-9020404) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (P) 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square
Class Trip 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square
Class Trip 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.00pm
Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-633 8891) @ Barbican
Hilary and Jackie 6pm, 8.40pm
Shakespeare in Love 6pm, 8.40pm

CHelsea CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham Junction
Bulworth 9pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-263 1720) @ Green Park
Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CURZON MINERVA
(0171-369 1233) @ Hyde Park Corner/Knightbridge
Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CURZON SOHO
(0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm)) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Bulworth 3.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square
Joe 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Egypt 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate
Hilary and Jackie 4.20pm, 8.50pm
Little Voice 2.20pm, 6.50pm

METRO
(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
Pecker 3pm, 7pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 5705) @ Notting Hill Gate
Shakespeare in Love 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(08705-050007) @ Camden Town
A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm
Little Voice 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm
Pecker 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.15pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(08705-050007) @ High Street
Kensington A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm
Bulworth 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square
Class Trip 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(08705-050007) @ Marble Arch
A Bug's Life 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm
Enemy of the State 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm
Practical Magic 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm
Stepmom 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square
Elizabeth 1.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm
The Mask of Zorro 2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm, 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(08705-050007) @ Swiss Cottage
A Bug's Life 1.25pm, 2.50pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ODEON WEST END
(08705-050007) @ Leicester Square
Little Voice 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA
(0171-494 4153) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

PLAZA
(0990-888990) @ Piccadilly Circus
Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Very Bad Things 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square
The Apple (5th) 1pm, 2.55pm, 5.05pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-733 2229) @ Ritzy
The Flower of My Secret 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-935 2772) @ Baker Street
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
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SCREEN ON THE HILL
(0171-435 3366) @ Belzite Park
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

UCI WHITELEYS
(0870 60 34567) @ Bayswater A
A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 2.10pm, 4pm, 4.40pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 8.50pm
Bulworth 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
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Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX
(0171-935 2772) @ Baker Street
Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.



CLASSICAL

CLASSICAL
10.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
10.00 Composer of the Week: Telemann.
10.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
10.00 Choral Evensong.
10.00 In Tune.
10.00 Performance on 3. Conductor Mark Wigglesworth, Maurice Haddon (violin), Paul Meyer (clarinet), Steven Burnard (viola). Respighi: Fountains of Rome. Paganini: Violin Concerto No 1 in D. Berio: Alternatif (first UK performance). Respighi: Pines of Rome.
10.00 Postscript. Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism from the world's most famous photo agency: 3. 'My Face Is Your Fortune'. Magnum photographers consider their achievements in creating portraits of the century's celebrities. (R)
10.00 Carlos Gardel. Vintage love songs from the celebrated Argentine tango singer, accompanied by the guitarists Barbieri, Aguilar and Rivera. Recorded in Buenos Aires in 1930.
10.00 Ensemble. In the second of two programmes of transcriptions

DANCE

DANCE
10.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
10.00 Choral Evensong.
10.00 In Tune.
10.00 Performance on 3. Conductor Mark Wigglesworth, Maurice Haddon (violin), Paul Meyer (clarinet), Steven Burnard (viola). Respighi: Fountains of Rome. Paganini: Violin Concerto No 1 in D. Berio: Alternatif (first UK performance). Respighi: Pines of Rome.
10.00 Postscript. Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism from the world's most famous photo agency: 3. 'My Face Is Your Fortune'. Magnum photographers consider their achievements in creating portraits of the century's celebrities. (R)
10.00 Carlos Gardel. Vintage love songs from the celebrated Argentine tango singer, accompanied by the guitarists Barbieri, Aguilar and Rivera. Recorded in Buenos Aires in 1930.
10.00 Ensemble. In the second of two programmes of transcriptions

MUSIC

MUSIC
10.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
10.00 Choral Evensong.
10.00 In Tune.
10.00 Performance on 3. Conductor Mark Wigglesworth, Maurice Haddon (violin), Paul Meyer (clarinet), Steven Burnard (viola). Respighi: Fountains of Rome. Paganini: Violin Concerto No 1 in D. Berio: Alternatif (first UK performance). Respighi: Pines of Rome.
10.00 Postscript. Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism from the world's most famous photo agency: 3. 'My Face Is Your Fortune'. Magnum photographers consider their achievements in creating portraits of the century's celebrities. (R)
10.00 Carlos Gardel. Vintage love songs from the celebrated Argentine tango singer, accompanied by the guitarists Barbieri, Aguilar and Rivera. Recorded in Buenos Aires in 1930.
10.00 Ensemble. In the second of two programmes of transcriptions

LITERATURE

LITERATURE
10.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
10.00 Choral Evensong.
10.00 In Tune.
10.00 Performance on 3. Conductor Mark Wigglesworth, Maurice Haddon (violin), Paul Meyer (clarinet), Steven Burnard (viola). Respighi: Fountains of Rome. Paganini: Violin Concerto No 1 in D. Berio: Alternatif (first UK performance). Respighi: Pines of Rome.
10.00 Postscript. Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism from the world's most famous photo agency: 3. 'My Face Is Your Fortune'. Magnum photographers consider their achievements in creating portraits of the century's celebrities. (R)
10.00 Carlos Gardel. Vintage love songs from the celebrated Argentine tango singer, accompanied by the guitarists Barbieri, Aguilar and Rivera. Recorded in Buenos Aires in 1930.
10.00 Ensemble. In the second of two programmes of transcriptions

RADIO 1
(97.5-98.5MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo.
12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 10.00 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 10.30 John Peel. 12.00 Blue Jam. 1.00 Gilles Peterson. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.
Radio 2
(95.2-96.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick Barracough. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show. 10.00 Top of the Pops 2 on 2. 10.30 Nicky Horne. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.
RADIO 3
(92.2-94.2MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. See *Pick of the Day*.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Telemann.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 Performance on 3. Conductor Mark Wigglesworth, Maurice Haddon (violin), Paul Meyer (clarinet), Steven Burnard (viola). Respighi: Fountains of Rome. Paganini: Violin Concerto No 1 in D. Berio: Alternatif (first UK performance). Respighi: Pines of Rome.
9.20 Postscript. Five programmes celebrating 50 years of photojournalism from the world's most famous photo agency: 3. 'My Face Is Your Fortune'. Magnum photographers consider their achievements in creating portraits of the century's celebrities. (R)
9.45 Carlos Gardel. Vintage love songs from the celebrated Argentine tango singer, accompanied by the guitarists Barbieri, Aguilar and Rivera. Recorded in Buenos Aires in 1930.
10.00 Ensemble. In the second of two programmes of transcriptions

WEDNESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

OUR CHIEF INSPECTOR of schools, Chris Woodhead, might derive some comfort from the *Afternoon Play* (2.15pm R4). It deals with a love at odds with the times - a selection of love letters between Abelard, the 11th-century French theologian, and his pupil, Heloise. Ranjit Bolt has provided the translation, which Anton Lesser (right) and Lynsey Baxter serve valiantly.



DOMINIC CAVENDISH

and reworkings, Penny Gore introduces a set of sprightly variations by Beethoven, a completion of a movement for piano and strings by Mozart, and a mighty warhorse by Beethoven. Variations on a Theme from Handel's *Judas Maccabaeus*. Lowri Blake (cello), John Lenehan (piano), Mozart, comp. Druce. Allegro in B flat, K510c. Gaudier Ensemble. Bach, arr Busoni: Chaconne in D minor. Katia Apekisheva (piano).
10.45 Night Waves. Is there a distinctive Scottish architecture? How far does national identity find its expression in buildings? Laura Canning explores the argument that, from individual geniuses like Adam and Mackintosh to the designers and planners of urban communities, Scottish architecture has developed in ways quite distinct from English. She also discusses the world premiere of Iain Crichton Smith's last work, *The Visitor*, commissioned by the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Liszt. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.
RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS; Midweek.
9.45 Serial: Tulip.
10.00 NEWS; Women's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; Murder, Magic and Medicine.
11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time. (R)
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

sound like the stuff of James Bond films, but spectacular discoveries in the ocean near Australia could prove the catalyst for a technological revolution. Peter Evans investigates.
9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and guests engage in lively chat.
10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Mark Twain Stories. 'Experience of the MacWilliamses with Memorable Croup'. Kelsey Grammar reads the third of five tales.
11.00 NEWS; Truly, Madly, Bitchley. Written by Julian Dutton. A feast of entertainment from the town they forgot in the AA Guide to Weekend Breaks. With Liz Fraser, Peter Hugo-Daly, Stephen Critchlow and Matthew Bell. Special guest Cleo Rocco (1/6).
11.35 MacFintock's Palace. See *Pick of the Day*.
11.30 The Cheese Shop Presents - The Butter Factor.
12.00 News.
12.30 Late Book: Lemon's Tale.
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
3.00 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.
RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.
12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE
(693, 809kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Full coverage of all the night's international football play world champions France at Wembley and the Republic of Ireland take on Paraguay at Lansdowne Road. Plus the National Lottery Draw.
10.00 Littlejohn. Richard Littlejohn takes listeners' calls on England's performance against France. Phone 0500 909693.
11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

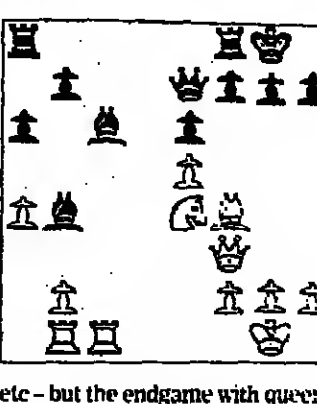
CLASSIC FM
(100.0-101.5MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.
VIRGIN RADIO
(125, 157, 126.0kHz MW 125MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark Forster. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Pete & Geoff. 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen.
WORLD SERVICE RADIO
(198kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridian (Live). 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Everywoman. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00).
TALK RADIO
6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Justice with Jacob. 1.00 Anna Rasmussen. 3.00 Peter Dealey. 5.00 Sportzone. 7.00 Offside with Seb Coe. 8.00 James Whake. 12.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

SATELLITE TV, RADIO/17

INDEPENDENT TV, RADIO/17

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN
FM IN Calcutta at the moment, playing in the 10th annual Goodricke International Open.
The Goodricke is the strongest annual event in Asia and this year 66 players are involved, from 15 countries. Sixteen grandmasters are included.
This is my third visit to this excellent event, though in contrast to previous years, this time I'm the only English player in a sea of ex-Soviets and therefore face a particularly hard task. Indeed we should all be pretty tired by the end of the event, for there aren't any rest days, and they've added an extra round to make 11 consecutively. After three days the top seed, Alexei Fedorov, was the only player left with a perfect score. The fifth is being contested today.
First-round games are always somewhat nervy and mine, against a reasonable Indian international master, was no exception.
After the 12 Rb1? Black was doing well. I couldn't play 14 b4 in view of Ne3! but really ought to have equalised with 13 Ne3.
15 ...Bd7 was also good, as was 16 ...Qd8? 17 Qe2 e5. Things started to go wrong for him after 18 ...Ne5 missing 19 Bf4! - 18 ...Qf6 looked better. But 19 ...f6 was quite playable, as was 20 ...Bxf4 21 Qxd4 Bd7 22 Qc7 Qe8!
21 ...Bc5 was much better, though after 22 Qg3 (also conceivably 22 Qxb7?) 22 ...Rf6 23 Ne4! I have an excellent game.
In the diagram the sacrifices win. If 24 ...Kxh5 25 Bg5 Qc5 26 Qe4 g6 27 Qh4 h5 28 Nxb5 etc. He defended resourcefully - if instead 25 ...Kxh5 26 exd6 Qd8 27 Bg7+ Kg8 28 Qg4 Qd3 29 Bxf4+ Kxh5 30 Qxb4+ 21 e5 Bb4



etc - but the endgame with queens and rooks was hopeless.
In fact, I'd stupidly missed an ...Qc3, but luckily I hadn't spoilt anything. At the end 41 ...Qd5 42 Qc5 exd6 43 Rxd7 Rcd 14 Rb6 - K? 43 Rb6 is trivial.
White: Jon Speelman
Black: RB Ramesh
Queen's Gambit Meran

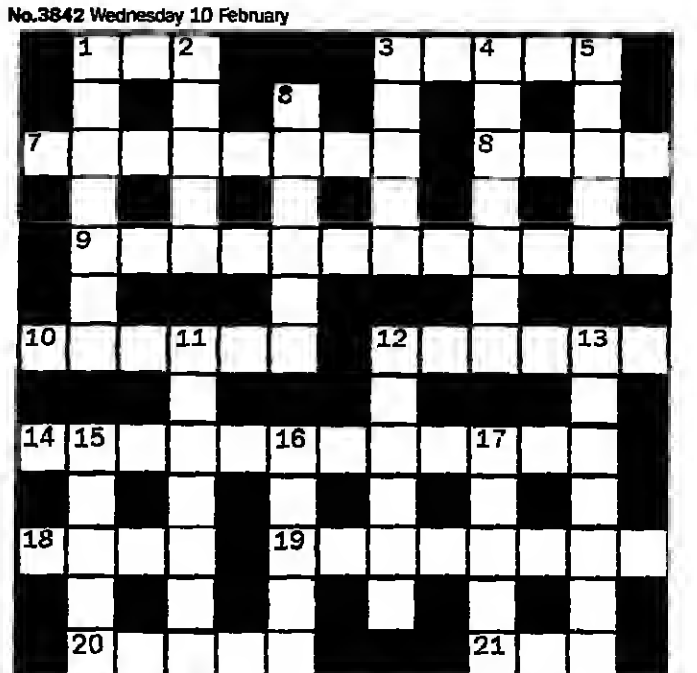
BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON
ON THIS deal West achieved something of a triumph when he chose a good moment to open with a distinctly sub-standard pre-emptive bid. South ended in an inferior contract and followed by missing the spectacular play that would have repaired the damage.
West opened Three Clubs and, after two passes, South had a problem. He started with a double but his partner's response of Three Spades did not really help. With a choice between Four Hearts (which would have been an easy contract) and 3 no-trumps, he chose the latter (which was not).
Although a club lead would have given South no chance, West was afraid that a lead away from his king might cost a vital trick and he selected the six of spades for his opening salvo, which at least gave declarer some breathing space. He tried a tempting ten from dummy but East did not oblige and South won in hand. There seemed nothing for it but to hope that East held both the ace and king of hearts and had started with at most two clubs. Accordingly South made a start on hearts. He held off on East's club return but West won and cleared the suit.
Now, when East got in with his other top heart, he was unkind

North-South game; dealer West			
North		East	
♠ A 10 9 8 7	♠ Q 5 4 3	♠ 7 4 2	♠ A K 5
♥ 6 2	♥ Q 4 3	♥ 10 5	♥ 8 4 3
♦ K J 10 9 7 5	♦ 8 6 3	♦ 6 2	♦ Q 5 4 3
♣ 6 3	♣ A K Q J	♣ 10 9 8 7	♣ 5 4 3

enough to produce a third club...
Have you spotted the brilliancy that South had missed? As long as he assumes that West holds the king of clubs, all should have been well. After winning the first trick with ♠ J, he follows with the king and overtakes with dummy's ace. Then he leads the ten of spades and - wait for it! - discards his ace of clubs! Now, if the defenders attack clubs, dummy's queen is an entry to the two spade winners: if they never lead clubs, South has plenty of time to establish the tricks he needs by playing on hearts.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Hostelry (3)
3 Central European (5)
7 Mad rush (8)
8 Nil (4)
9 Part of Bible (3,9)
10 Impassive (6)
12 Accident (6)
14 Stamina (7,5)
18 Relative (4)
19 Punishment imposed by court (8)
20 Each (5)
21 Equipment (3)
DOWN
1 Entrance hymn (7)
2 Wanderer (5)
3 Heraldic device (5)
4 Catalytic protein substances (7)
5 Great Lake (5)
6 Protect (6)
11 Set of baby clothes (7)
12 Acting listlessly (6)
13 Fruit (7)
15 Brownish-grey (5)
16 Unpleasant (5)
17 Ruin (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Herod, 4 Rome (Aerodrome), 6 Anxious, 9 Frune, 10 Sign, 11 Incident, 12 Consideration, 15 Cavalier, 17 Acid, 20 Using, 21 Tribute, 22 Seal, 23 Dense, DOWN: 1 Haguenau, 3 Rios, 4 Disinterested, 4 Replenish, 5 Mawse, 6 Bass, 7 Beaten, 12 Cactus, 17 Illegal, 14 Include, 16 Voice, 18 Dead, 19 Lion.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

AFTER ALL THE turmoil involving Glenn Hoddle earlier this month, the England team will just be happy to be able to concentrate on playing a game. For England vs France (7pm Sky Sports 2) at Wembley this evening, the home team will be eager to prove their class against the world champions. Selection vagaries willing, one of the most intriguing clashes should be between England's Michael Owen, emerging as one



JAMES RAMPTON

of the world's top strikers, and his French Premiership rivals from Chelsea, Frank Leboeuf and Marcel Desailly.
Elizabeth Taylor (right) is one of those stars whose off-screen existence has often attracted more attention than her film work. Her extraordinary life - including both film career and serial marriages - is featured on tonight's Hollywood Hall of Fame (5.30pm Sky Cinema).
MYSTERY WORLD (4.00pm R4). 5.30 Creatures Fantastic (4.00pm R4). 6.00 The Unexplained (5.30pm R4). 10.00 War and Civilization (6.30pm R4). 10.00 The Fastest Car on Earth (7.30pm R4). 12.00 Searching for Lost World: Machu Picchu (8.55pm R4). 1.00 Treasure Hunters (9.00pm R4). 1.30 Wheel Turns (9.25pm R4). 2.00 Close.
SKY NEWS
10.00 Chris Evans Breakfast Show (5.30pm R4). 5.30 Hollywood Squares (5.30pm R4). 6.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (5.30pm R4). 6.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7.30pm R4). 11.00 Gullit (9.00pm R4). 12.00 Jerry Jones (9.00pm R4). 1.00 Mad about You (9.45pm R4). 1.30 Jeopardy (9.45pm R4). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (9.45pm R4). 3.00 Jerry Jones (9.45pm R4). 4.00 Gullit (9.45pm R4). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.45pm R4). 6.00 Star Trek: Voyager (9.45pm R4). 7.00 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 7.30 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 8.00 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 8.30 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 9.00 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 9.30 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 10.00 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 10.30 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 11.00 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 11.30 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 12.00 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 12.30 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 1.00 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 1.30 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 1.50 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 2.00 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 2.30 The Simpsons (9.45pm R4). 3.00 The Simpsons 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Channel 4 Channel 5

TELEVISION REVIEW



"THINGS ARE SOME"

programs made it make you stop and count your blessings; that gave you a pang of fear when you realized how terrible life can be. Children of the Sennetons (TV), ought to have been one of these. This was Desmond's Wilcox's follow-up to his 1981 film about the homeless children of Boston who hid in the sewers to avoid the police hit squads who considered them air game. But while on the details of life and death on the streets were grim, and John Shanahan's enlightenment in creating metaphors for the children was impressive, the judding, repetitive commentary and the aggressively polemic tone proved in no way a powerful sense of urgency.

No stars at all (BBC1), on the other hand, was something scary perhaps because it was so much closer to home. The first of four films on modern working practices followed by two narrators, loosely linked by the notion of "the age", and the pressure to make them fit. In fact, the real subject seemed to be the way that contemporary commentators take greed, aggression and selfishness too literally.

The thesis was stated at the beginning by Alan Webster, who treats the sales team at Next as Father Computer: Sales "what we're looking to recruit is quite scary, people who are hungry, nobody tells husbands, Carl had been one of these, but had lost motivation after the birth of his son, Peter. Webster pulled him in for questioning, demanding to know "where are you on your career spiral?" and telling him to "Think about your life, your future, what you really want, what it seems obvious that Carl had done exactly that, and had concluded that what he really wanted for his life was to spend it looking after a four-week-old baby instead of with people you don't like." Where are you on your belief spiral?" is a meaningful question. But dramatic reality bit him, and he consented to go back to be reprogrammed. "Stop bloody thinking," Webster instructed him, "thinking is dangerous."

As part of the campaign to stamp out this risky habit, Webster got the staff to dress up as giant fat rabbits and kangaroos and each other. Elsewhere, Sharon, a sales manager for Ann Summers, was doing her bit by selling the

"thing she's a shallop!" though a little of popcorn in the stomach of a horse's head which she whistles when you touch it. Shorrogh's aim was to sell enough sexy underwear to win the coveted £10,000 Penda, taking strength from her own manager's words: "No such word as sexy!"

Mary McDonald, that undercapitalized workaholic ineffectually alienated from the product of their labours, and some support to that. When seen with the workers of the binder factory we saw before, dragged into being new bodies, they seem to ooze. But what was chilling to us. But what was chilling to us. But what was chilling to us.

It's an old paradox though if concentration could guarantee it to Mozart, and a trivial one: What is truly startling is that a man who can tell people to floors can tell the capacity for extreme human warmth and humor. And I score here late without the scene where the policeman contradicted the estranged wife contemplating the emotional emptiness with the double security and happiness of the two boys, and jags. Neil Pendrill's script showed a commendable reluctance to draw morals. Instead, the viewer was treated to the sledge of Ken Scott as Cullin, a charming, ingenious game-changer, of wild energy, an ill-fittingly bulging through a V-neck sweater. And up again him, John Kavanagh's ITA leader, with pinched cheekbones and the pained, awkward gaze of a martyr. In the end, Victoria Circle didn't live up to the conflict that this pair seemed to embody, but it was cool, intelligent, entertaining, and very welcome.

Channel 4

6.00 Business Breakfast (729)90 8.40 News (7) (255)99
9.00 Killy (S) (7) (818)745 **9.15 The Varanase Show**
 (S) (7) (443)20, 11.00 **Real News: Regional News: Weather**
 (S) (656)559, 11.00 **Real Rooms** (S) (656)3631, 11.25
Carl Cook, Wort Cook (S) (7) (653)720, 11.45 **News**
Regional News: Weather (S) (7) (653)707, 12.00 **Call My**
Build (S) (655)58, 12.30 **Whodunnit** (S) (265)559, 12.45
The Weather Show (S) (7) (42)1871, 1.00 **News:**
Weather (7) (254)78, 1.30 **Regional News and Weather**
 (479)40359, 1.40 **Night Nurse** (S) (255)25294, 2.05
Shooler (S) (657)855, 2.45 **Body Shop** (S) (653)402

\$50 Wharft's All This Finesse (R) (127) (1) (2657359), 7.00
Tales of the Tooth Fairies (R) (137) (2) (2272824), 7.00
The Babes (S) (383936), 7.50 Smoke (R) (634403), 7.50
The Really Wild Show (S) (1) (6877365), 8.50 The Maze
(T) (2271229), 8.48 Pinks Out Shorts (S) (311403), 8.55
Tales of the Tooth Fairies (S) (383937), 9.00 Environment
(S) O.C. World, and In Wee Wee (S) (368029), 8.50
When Wharft's Wild? (S) (3835823), 8.25 The Art
(S) (4589832), 9.45 Words and Pictures (S) (3022229),
10.00 The Babes (S) (382224), 10.30 Numbers (S)
(2269823), 10.45 Cats Eyes (S) (234437), 11.00 Around

5.30 GMTV (9663436) **6.28 Taha** (S) (7-674671) **10.3 The Morning** (7) (68008549) **12.20 Your Show** (9556339) **12.30 News: Weather** (7) (68010) **1.00 London Today** (7) (3174) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (S) (7) (684330) **2.15 Home and Away** (S) (7) (305656) **2.45 Dale Gribble's Sheep** (S) (7) (35889) **3.45 ITN News Headlines** (7) (5400872) **3.50 London Today** (7) (9630395).

8.00 Sesama Street (B2300), 7.00 The Big Breakfast (B822), 9.00 Channel 4 School (T) 462575, 11.30 Pantomouse (A) (B312), 12.00 Sesama Street (B778), 12.30 Bewitched (B) (T) 646623, 1.00 Pat Macdonald (S) (T) 1319, 1.30 EastEnders (B057367).

5.00 S News and Sport (S) (7) (650479), 7.00
Wichita (S) (7) (650456), 7.50 **Wichita (S)**
(318730), 7.55 **Winners House (S) (326046), 8.00**
Hawthorn (S) (407359), 8.30 **Dapplefoot, B (R)**
(S) (406580), 9.00 **Hot Property (R) (72)**
(650276), 9.25 **Russell Gaults Postcard (S) (651497)**
5.30 The Open Wintry Show (R) (608358), 10.50
Survive Beach (S) (7) (741774), 11.10 **Lazee (S)**
(449387), 12.00 **5 News at Noon (S) (7) (667473),**
12.30 **Family Affairs (R) (S) (7) (983352), 12.40**

3.25 Children's B&C: (S) (26374), (S) (26377), (S) (26378)
Little Monsters (S) (2013470), 3.40 Churchville (S) (4
(591880), 4.40 Seal It Saw it (S) (33558-9), 4.45
The Wild Horses (S) (6510039), 5.00 Newround (S)
(T) (2485077), 5.40 Blue Pearls (S) (600749).

5.35 Melrose Place. Banner moves into the new place, but
the fire-warming party gets out of hand (S) (100556).

5.00 News! Weather (T) (387).

[illegible]

5,000 London Tonlets. Radical water, unlike tea, has
510 Home and Away (7) (6247039).
5,40 Newsj Weather (7) (692487).
5,000 London Tonlets. Radical water, unlike tea, has

**5.30 Collectors' Lot (7) (07, 4.00 Filson to One, (5) (T
(942, 4.30 Countdown (5) (7) (#908470), 4.55 Ricki
Laine (5) (7) (\$556381).**

5.30 Post Freebies. The staff of RSPCA Chester-land
encounter a group of belligerent goats (5) (7) (#789).

5.30 **REPLY** Trouble in Paradise (1) Drew 1938 US. President-enough, made-for-television series. Problematic. (S) (7) (19841993).
 (2) The French Whitch which is the widow of a diplomat who, like the President, is a tropical island. (S) (7) (19841993).
 (3) A really hard-to type while on tour to a new line. America (7) (19841993).

5.30 **STREET BANGS** A car crash leaves Susan, Emily and David unconscious - not that you'd notice (S) (7) (19841993).

5.30 Regional News (185).

7.20 Airport. Jacob's Jeremy Spake contends with a broken airbridge and a lost passenger in the re-tested docu-strap. (1) (5) (1) (7476).

7.30 Dream House. To describe Carol Vorderman as "bizarre" doesn't do justice to the range of ideas on television nowadays. The programme will attempt to

6:45 Snooker. David Vane introduces further action from the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre (5) (26-1855).

7:30 Takes to the Riverbank. Geoffrey Palmer and singing – not the most exciting combination, admittedly.

6:30 *London Bridge* (S) (#229). Capital and the South-East, including a local weather bulletin (T) (#19).

7:00 *Brummaria*. Zo attempts to broker a peace deal with Jack (S) (T) (#279).

7:30 *Coronation Street*. It's the dawn of a new era at the corner shop (S) (T) (#23).

7.00 Chemical & News **Waastar**, including headlines at 7:30pm (S) (T) (239045).

720 5 News, including First on Five. National and international news with Kierri Young (S) (T) 6797668.

[illegible]

5:00 *Baiting of the Seals.* Samuel West narrates the story of seal in the animal kingdom (S) (T) (V) (R).

5:30 *Home Front.* A couple put their newly to good use, while some fellow by the name of Peter Dinklage is at transforming a child's playroom (S) (T) (V) (R).

6:00 *Murphy Blues.* Last in the documentary series about him is the Minneapolis police force. Detective Chief Inspector Ernie Devlin is in court on a charge of

8.00 *FAMILY TIES*, *Jettison at the Bridge Part II* (Charles Shyer) 1995 (VHS). Unpleasantly successful second premise of the Virginia Mirelli classic detective film (in and out of character) as she investigates a husband's death. Diane Keaton. This link, the unfortunately weak comedy scenario between Mirelli facing the prospect of becoming a grandfather, its hardly compelling as a hook into the football fever on the evening, and it is the second Steve Martinbury of the week, coming after yesterday's dear My Blue Heaven on Channel 5 (5) (T) (685).

7.00 *THE NIGHTMARE WITHINER*, Another new work from our super filmmaker (T) (2002/27).

8.00 *Brooklyn's*, Success! Don Dixon's been up to no good (S) (T) (1982/8).

8.30 *The Real Making Show*, Two stylists, plus guests, get to work on a little craft for the discernible, perhaps, but definitely amusing for everyone else (T) (1971).

8.00 *ER*, The week on *ER*. Ben's son has severe hearing loss – did you hear it in dental, wouldn't you know it? (S) (1992/23).

\$5.00 **Into the Fire** (Richard Benjamin 1986 US). Top-notch response drama in which an American accustomed to hard conditions (S) (T) (6401861).

10.05 *Inside Story*. A moving dissection of modern relationships, featuring couples whose relationships ran aground in unusual ways. It includes a husband who left his wife for another man and another who went off with the babysitter. (S) (7) (R) 95a52.

42-50 Blood on the Carpet. "Guns 'n' Poles." Another book that is in the hardcover-battle series, which this time is \$14.95 on the power equidriver at *hithere* (S) (T) (B93443).

0.30 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East. (T) (ISS8855).

0.40 THIRG3 The Big Match. England vs France. Highlights of England's 1-0 victory against the World Cup winners, *Sea View* of the Day, *Against the Press*.

0.00 News. Weather (T) (ISS859).

0.00 Sex and the City. Thus-far-disappointing sitcom about a lithe something hack typing platitudes about sex and the single women in New York. (S) (7) (7/97).

0.30 Love & Sex. The various techniques employed by married folk to send old messages of love (S) (7) (8/04).

530 Melinda's Big Night In, Melinda Massenator with
discover that the parents are Soviet agents who
emigrated to the USA 20 years previously. River Phoenix
and Sidney Poller enter (S) (T) (897058897).

11:40 *Shining*, Highlights of the movie's combined event from *Nel* (S) (bbs26).

12:30 *LEAVE A Woman Scorned* (Dick Lundy 1991 US). TV movie about a homicidal San Diego housewife, starring Meredith Baxter (S) (bbs06).

1:45 *Johns BBC News 24* (7/550722), to Gem

(60-842) 12.30 BSC Learning Zone: Open University - Faculty Management (7)(9347), 1.00 Newtons Revolution (7)(9486), 1.50 The Physics of Ball Games (7)(6253), 2.00 Schrod's Special Needs - Gtnewitter 13-16 (7)(889), 5.00 BSC: The French Experiment I -- Maths (30679), 5.30 20 Steps to Better Learning (39779), 5.45 Open University Body Plans (62987), to 6:00pm

11:40 Midnight Caller (R)95-964.
12:28 RHIMES Cap (James B. Hains 1938 US). Thriller about a detective who solves crimes by reading the body language of suspects.
Film of the Day. Below (T) (E78237).

2:20 Master Class (M)95-25. **3:05 Judge Judy** (A)
4:55 (W)95-21. **3:25 The Nanny** (F) (T)95-21.
4:25 TV Nightmares (G)95-91. **5:30 TNN Morning News** (R)95-75. To Begin

11.30 **Go Graham Norton (R)** (263/348) **12.40** **Board**
Stunt Girls Show (R) (263/348) **1.00** **Football**
Mazzenotti (1358/056) **3.10** **Toronto** Sport (R)
Crabtree 1946 UK, Physics Cantori (Innances 655052),
Beesme Street, (362324), to 7em.

Unlimited) (S) \$320/031.
30 Strange Luck (S) (904/788) **12.22** Ice Hockey: **4.4**
 Buffalo Sabres (S) (904/788) Senators (S) (27/5140) **4.4**
 The Moose Creek Band (S) (904/788) **4.4** Mono
 On Up (R) (S) (4686552) **4.3** 100 For Cent. (S)
 (9950500). To Gen.

FILM OF THE DAY



MATCH OF THE DAY



FILM OF THE DAY



Don't miss
Millennial Minutures.
Inspired by Royal Mail
Millennium Stamps.
Every night this week,
C4 7.55pm.
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